



# 2024 IUC Collaborative Initiatives Summit

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## THANK YOU to our Speakers, Panelists, and Moderators:

### **Laura Lanese**

#### **President and CEO, Inter-University Council of Ohio**

*Laura has been President and CEO of the Inter-University Council of Ohio since December 2022 and advocates on behalf of the IUC's Presidents' Council, comprising the presidents of Ohio's 14 public universities. Prior to joining the IUC, Laura was a leader and a member of the Ohio House of Representatives, where she served as Assistant Majority Whip and Chair of the Higher Education Committee. Additionally, Laura worked as an Assistant Attorney General with the US Department of Justice and as an attorney with the US District Court. She also served in both the Ohio Air National Guard and the US Army Reserve. Laura received her LLM from Georgetown University, her JD from The Ohio State University, and her BA from Miami University. She is the author of four books, one on Ohio State football and three on local history. She and her husband Mike live in central Ohio and have three adult children.*

### **Jim Bennett**

#### **Chief of Staff and Senior Policy Advisor, Ohio Department of Higher Education**

*Jim Bennett has served as Chief of Staff and Senior Advisor to three state higher education system Chancellors and one University President. Currently, Jim serves as Chief of Staff and Senior Policy Advisor to the Chancellor of the Ohio Department of Higher Education (ODHE). In this capacity, Jim is responsible for directing and overseeing all administrative and operational functions of the Cabinet-level state agency, guiding the agency's comprehensive policy agenda, and leading the Department's Senior Staff.*

*Earlier in his career, Jim served as the Vice Chancellor of Finance and Data Management and Chief Financial Officer (CFO) at ODHE, where he oversaw all financial activities for the Department. Jim has held prior positions as Section Chief, Senior Higher Education Analyst, and Higher Education Analyst at the Ohio Office of Budget and Management (OBM).*

*Jim holds a Bachelor of Science degree, a Master of Science degree, and a Master's degree in Public Policy and Management, all received from The Ohio State University.*

### **Jennifer March-Wackers**

#### **Executive Director, IUC Purchasing Group**

*Jennifer March-Wackers is a dynamic leader with deep expertise in strategy, management, and policy analysis, specializing in collaborative initiatives that enhance operational efficiency across higher education institutions. Since 2016, she has served as Executive Director of the Inter-University Council of Ohio Purchasing Group (IUC-PG), where she drives collaboration among Ohio's colleges and universities in operational areas such as HR, IT, and Business/Finance. Jennifer fosters partnerships that deliver measurable cost savings and opportunities for service improvement, working closely with IUC and IUC-PG member institutions to identify and leverage collaborative opportunities.*

*Prior to her role at IUC-PG, Jennifer served as Director of Municipal Services at the Capitol Region Council of Governments in Hartford, CT. During her decade-long tenure, she spearheaded the expansion of shared services programs across IT, HR, Public Works, and Business/Finance for local governments throughout Connecticut. Her career reflects a commitment to driving efficiencies in public sector operations through stakeholder engagement and strategic planning.*

*Jennifer holds a Master's in Public Policy with honors from Trinity College, Hartford, and a Bachelor's degree in Political Science from the University of Mount Union. She has also participated in several prestigious leadership institutes, including the 2024 Chronicle of Higher Education Administrative Leadership Institute and Harvard*

University's Public Sector and Education Shared Services Summit. She is an active member of professional organizations and speaks on topics related to collaboration, procurement, and shared services.

## **Tom Angelucci**

### **Executive Director, IUC Risk Management Insurance Consortium**

*As Executive Director of the IUC Risk Management and Insurance Consortium (RMIC) since March 2023, Tom leads the planning, direction, and coordination of all activities while maintaining oversight of the membership, governance, self-insurance pools, programs, claims, and risk control initiatives. Under the direction of the RMIC Board of Governors, and on behalf of the membership, Tom directs the RMIC operations and provides vision and strategic thinking for future direction, while collaborating with membership in the development of innovative risk management and loss control strategies, bringing forth new ideas and working toward implementation.*

*Prior to joining RMIC, Tom served as Executive Director of the School District Insurance Consortium (SDIC), a group self-insured pool in Southeast Pennsylvania. His career in the insurance industry began with cell-phone insurance and evolved to the Structured Settlement industry where, as a Certified Structured Settlement Consultant (CSSC), Tom specialized in the settlement and annuitization of personal injury claims.*

*Tom earned a Bachelor's degree in Theater from Temple University, an MBA from St. Joseph's University and the Associate in Risk Management (ARM) Designation from The Institutes. He is currently working towards the Chartered Property and Casualty Underwriter (CPCU) Designation.*

## **Keynote:**

### **Lawrence W. Inks, PhD**

#### **Clinical Professor, Management and Human Resources Fisher College of Business, The Ohio State University**

*Larry Inks, PhD is Clinical Professor of Management and Human Resources in the Fisher College of Business at The Ohio State University. He teaches both undergraduate and graduate level classes in the areas of talent management, organization change and project management, organizational behavior and human resource management, staffing, and statistics and research methods. He is actively involved in executive education programs and initiatives offered through the Fisher College of Business as well as external consulting and speaking.*

*Prior to joining the faculty at the Fisher College, Dr. Inks had a very successful career in talent management leadership roles at PepsiCo, AlliedSignal/ Honeywell, and Cardinal Health. Most recently, Dr. Inks was Vice President of Talent Management for Cardinal Health in Dublin, Ohio from 2001-2005. His areas of responsibility (among others) included culture management, employee engagement, human resource planning/talent review, leadership development, performance management systems and organization change.*

*Larry has a PhD in Industrial/Organizational Psychology from The Ohio State University and a Bachelors degree in Psychology from Purdue University. He has received a number of teaching and service awards at both the College and University level, including Ohio State University's Alumni Award for Distinguished Teaching, which is the University's highest recognition for teaching excellence.*

## **Breakout Session Facilitators and Panelists:**

### **Julie Allison**

#### **Associate Vice President for Finance, Ohio University**

*Julie Allison serves as the Associate Vice President for Finance at Ohio University since 2010. In this position, Julie oversees a range of financial activities. Her responsibilities include general accounting, capital finance, financial reporting, post-awards finance, accounts payable, supplier management, procurement, contracts, travel, cash management, credit card program, accounts receivable, bursar office, and the financial and administrative systems group.*

*Julie's career spans over 30 years in both the private sector and higher education. Before joining Ohio University, she worked in public accounting and the non-profit sector. She received her bachelor's degree in accountancy in 1995, and an MBA in 1996, both from Ohio University, and is a certified public accountant.*

## **Dawn Fahner**

### **Associate Vice President of Human Resources, Miami University**

*Dawn Fahner, AVP Human Resources, at Miami University a position she has held since 2018. Dawn has been employed with Miami University for 19 years; prior to Miami she was employed with Wal-Mart Stores Inc. as a Human Resource Manager. She received her certification as a Professional in Human Resources in 2010 and obtained her Bachelor's Degree from Miami University.*

## **Sara Harrison**

### **Associate Vice President of Purchasing and Travel Services, University of Cincinnati**

*Sara Harrison is the Associate Vice President of Purchasing and Travel Services at the University of Cincinnati. Prior to this role, she served as the Executive Director of Procurement and Payable Services at the University of Dayton. Sara's career began at Procter & Gamble, where she held various leadership positions in supply network operations for nearly 19 years. Her career has been marked by significant achievements in defining innovative and sustainable supply chain solutions. Sara holds an MBA from the University of Dayton and a BS in Industrial & Systems Engineering from The Ohio State University.*

## **Shandra Irish**

### **Director of Purchasing, The University of Akron**

*Shandra Irish is the Director of Purchasing for the University of Akron and has worked in the purchasing department since 2017. She also has worked as an adjunct construction engineering and estimating professor.*

*Before her state government position, she worked as an estimator and project manager within the construction industry, eventually taking a construction procurement role in higher education. Working in higher education has allowed her to fulfill a desire to serve the public while expanding her skills in contract management and strategic sourcing.*

*Shandra received her BA in construction engineering, and her MA in public administration from the University of Akron. She currently lives in Medina, Ohio with her husband and son.*

## **Larry McWilliams**

### **Director, Procurement Department, Kent State University**

*Larry McWilliams joined Kent State University in March 2003 as a senior purchasing agent and since then has assumed steadily progressive roles in the Procurement Department. In his twenty-one-year career at Kent State, Larry has made many profitable contributions to all facets of the procurement business function including competitive bidding, contract management, process development and improvement, data collection and analysis, cost savings and efficiency, e-procurement, and strategic sourcing and planning. These, in tandem with his professional certification as a Certified Purchasing Manager (C.P.M.), his knowledge of public university procurement policies and practices, and State of Ohio and Federal procurement laws, as well as the many relationships he has cultivated in his years of public purchasing in Ohio all contribute greatly to his success at Kent State.*

*Larry holds a master's degree in history from Cleveland State University and a bachelor's degree in humanities from Gannon University.*

## **Katie Overholser**

### **Strategic Procurement Manager, IUC Purchasing Group**

*Katie Overholser serves as the Manager of Strategic Procurement for the Inter-University Council Purchasing Group. She manages various cooperative procurement processes by conducting re-bid or new RFP specifications and negotiations that result in IUC-PG contracts for member use. Katie manages data collection, analysis and reporting related to individual university and collaborative Purchasing Group spend, conducts market analysis, and develops market intelligence summaries tracking metrics of usage and cost savings/avoidance for contracts.*

*Prior to her position with the IUC-PG, Katie served as Procurement Director for University of Dayton and focused on financial departments including Retail Operations, Dining Services and Facilities Management. During Katie's fifteen-year tenure at the University of Dayton she held several positions within Retail Operations and Procurement and Payable*

*Services. In 2022, Katie was awarded “UD Woman of the Year” based on her sourcing work and leadership during the COVID pandemic.*

*Katie holds a Bachelor of Science in Business from Miami University. In 2022, Katie completed a Master’s Certificate for Emerging Leaders.*

## **John Rathje**

### **Vice President for Information Technology and Chief Information Officer, Kent State University**

*John’s leadership experience spans multiple sectors, including higher education, health care and industry. In his role at Kent State, John provides strategic direction and innovative, customer focused technology solutions that support and advance the University’s mission. He is responsible for all institutional information technology and digital services that enable and protect Kent State students, faculty, researchers and staff.*

*Prior to joining Kent State in 2018, John spent 15 years in informational technology roles in higher education. Most recently he served as the Assistant Vice Chancellor and CIO at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock (UALR). He also served as the Assistant Dean of Technology for Central Michigan University (CMU) College of Medicine, as the Dean of Technology, and as the Director of Applications Development and Support at Central Michigan University. In the private sector, John served as President and CEO of a technology advocacy firm and Co-Founder and President of Diversified Computer Group, Inc.*

*In support of the vision and priorities set forth in the University’s “A Strategic Roadmap to a Distinctive Kent State”, John serves on the University Level Initiatives committee and the Shared Services Initiative.*

*John represents or has represented the University and the Higher Education IT sector by serving on many regional and national committees. He has also held numerous board positions and memberships over the past 20 years.*

*John holds a Bachelor of Science in Physics and a Master of Science in Computer Science from Central Michigan University.*

## **Kristina Rhine**

### **Procurement Director, Bowling Green State University**

*Kristina Rhine is Director of Purchasing at Bowling Green State University in Ohio, a role she has held for the past 18 months. In her role, Kristina is responsible for all campus-wide purchasing, including all requisition transactions, RFP facilitation, the corresponding negotiation and contract review, e-procurement systems maintenance, pcard management, and vendor management.*

*Kristina has been with the BGSU Purchasing Department since 2017, working in all the capacities of which she is now responsible. Prior to coming to BGSU, Kristina spent 6 years in purchasing with a commercial interior design firm, and another 6 years with a behavioral health agency serving as a fiscal/office manager as well as a billing services manager. She holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration with specializations in Accounting/Management from the University of Toledo and a Master of Business Administration degree from Bowling Green State University.*

## **Snow Rutkowske**

### **Higher Education Consulting Senior Director, Huron Consulting Group**

*Snow is an innovative spend management professional with deep understanding of and over 15 years of operational and consulting experience primarily in Higher Education for over 50 universities and colleges. With expertise in procure-to-pay assessment, strategic sourcing, cost savings implementation, and change management, Snow assists organizations and finance leaderships to gain visibility and understanding of their spend, identify opportunities for improvements and facilitate positive change, achieve savings targets, streamline procure-to-pay related processes, to transform and/or optimize the procurement function to collaborate across the institution, generate additional value, and effectively support the organization’s strategic objectives and visions.*