

## **Assembly Committee on Jobs, Economic Development, and the Economy**

Informational hearing on *The Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on California Small Businesses*.

**Tuesday, February 23, 2021 - Witnesses' Biographies**

Below are witness biographies, which were available at the time of publication.

### **Bianca Blomquist, Senior Manager, California Policy & Engagement, Small Business Majority**

Bianca Blomquist handles Small Business Majority's policy and legislative efforts throughout California and manages outreach in Northern California. She develops relationships with stakeholders to empower the voice of small business owners and reports to the Vice President, California. Currently, she leads the Silicon Valley small business taskforce on federal and state funding and serves as liaison to the Jobs, Economic Development and the Economy (JEDE) Committee in the California State Legislature.

Prior to joining Small Business Majority, Bianca served as a legislative aide on Capitol Hill for a member of the House Financial Services Committee and current Attorney General for the State of Minnesota. She also worked on federal affairs issues for five years including healthcare, labor, transportation and trade.

### **Robert Fairlie is Professor of Economics at the University of California, Santa Cruz and Research Associate, NBER.**

Robert Fairlie is Professor of Economics at the University of California, Santa Cruz and Research Associate, NBER. His research interests include entrepreneurship, education, information technology, inequality, labor economics, and immigration. He received his Ph.D. and M.A. from Northwestern University and B.A. with honors from Stanford University. He has held visiting positions at Stanford University, Yale University, UC Berkeley and Australian National University. He has received funding for his research from numerous government agencies and foundations. He has testified to the U.S. Senate, U.S. House of Representatives, U.S. Department of Treasury, and the California State Assembly regarding the findings from his research, and received a joint resolution from the California Legislature.

### **Deanna Krehbiel, MBA, CCT, Interim Executive Director, Economic Development & Corporate Training, San Bernardino Community College District**

Deanna is the Interim Executive Director for Economic Development & Corporate Training at San Bernardino Community College District (SBCCD). She has served for nearly eleven years at SBCCD providing customized rapid response not-for-credit training for the economic and workforce development in our community. In this role, she coordinated the work of designing, customizing, and developing training plans for upskilling businesses' employees and reskilling marginalized populations to gain employment.

In addition, she helped establish the statewide community college contract education collaborative. Over 20 colleges participate statewide to collaborate on training projects, bring awareness to upskilling and reskilling needs, and share best practices.

Other Professional Positions:

- Chair Economic Development & Contract Education, Inland Empire Desert Regional Consortium (IEDRC)
- Founding Member, Executive Board UpSkill Statewide Community College Contract Education Collaborative Member

Educational Highlights:

- Chapman University, B.S. Social Sciences, Minor in Psychology
- California State University San Bernardino, M.B.A
- Certified Contract Trainer CCT LERN

**Dee Dee Myers is Senior Advisor to Governor Gavin Newsom and Director of the Governor’s Office of Business and Economic Development**

Dee Dee Myers is Senior Advisor to Governor Gavin Newsom and Director of the Governor’s Office of Business and Economic Development. She brings more than three decades of experience in strategic communications, public affairs, corporate governance and social responsibility in both the public and private sectors.

Most recently, she served as Executive Vice President, Worldwide Corporate Communications and Public Affairs for Warner Bros. She was a member of the company’s executive committee and advised the CEO on a wide range of issues. Prior to joining Warner Bros., Ms. Myers served as Managing Director of the Glover Park Group.

Ms. Myers served as White House Press Secretary during President Bill Clinton’s first term and was the first woman to hold the position. After leaving the White House, she worked as a political analyst, commentator and writer as well as a contributing editor to *Vanity Fair*. She is the author of *The New York Times* best-selling book “Why Women Should Rule the World” and served as a consultant on the Emmy Award-winning drama series “The West Wing.”

Before joining the Clinton presidential campaign in 1991, Ms. Myers worked on a number of local, state and national campaigns. She served as press secretary for Dianne Feinstein in her 1990 bid for governor of California and worked on the presidential campaigns of Governor Michael S. Dukakis and Vice President Walter F. Mondale. She also worked on the staffs of Los Angeles Mayor Tom Bradley and California State Senator Art Torres.

Myers also serves on Board of Directors of Wynn Resorts International, a publicly- traded Fortune 500 Company that develops and operates 5 Star integrated resorts in the United States and Macau. She also serves on the boards of the Smithsonian’s National Museum of American History and the Mayor’s Fund for Los Angeles.

**Michelle Radmand is currently the Acting Deputy Director and Northern California Regional Advisor Appointee for the California Office of the Small Business Advocate (CalOSBA)**

Michelle Radmand is currently the Acting Deputy Director and Northern California Regional Advisor Appointee for the California Office of the Small Business Advocate (CalOSBA) at the Governor’s Office of Business and Economic Development (GO-Biz). As the Northern Regional Advisor, Michelle supports the mission of CalOSBA to support economic growth and innovation in California by working to ensure that all of its small businesses and entrepreneurs have the resources they need to startup, connect to capital, connect to markets, and grow their business. Michelle has been with the CalOSBA/GO-Biz since August 2018.

Prior to her current appointment, Michelle was the Program Manager for CalOSBA and managed all programs including the Capital Infusion Program, Technical Assistance Program, Technical Assistance Expansion Program totaling \$23 million in state funds to support California's federally designated small business technical assistance centers expand their services to underserved communities and small business groups; and, Made in California and the innovation hub network (iHub), which included the California Advanced Supply Chain Analysis and Diversification Effort (CASCADE) and worked with partners to bolster California's defense supply chain cybersecurity resilience, innovation capacities and diversify strategies.

Michelle formerly worked for the Los Rios Community College District's Center for International Trade Development as the International Special Projects Manager from 2013 to 2018. During her time, she co-managed SBA's California State Trade Export Promotion (STEP) program with the Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development. She assisted over 200 businesses increase their export promotion efforts overseas, facilitated and participated in inbound and outbound delegations, and aided in businesses securing overseas contracts. In addition to STEP, Michelle managed other State and Federal economic development programs, with a focus on small business export and global entrepreneurship, including a USDA Rural Business Development grant, CDFA Specialty Crop Block Grant, CDFA Climate Smart Action, California Community College Chancellor's Office (CCCCO) of Workforce and Economic Development SB1402 and 1070, and the CCCCCO Strong Workforce Program.

**James Watson is the President and CEO of California Manufacturing Technology Consulting (CMTC).**

Mr. Watson started with CMTC in 1999 as Vice President of Business Development and transitioned to the position of Vice President of Operations in 2001 with responsibility for the day-to-day operations of CMTC. He was appointed President and CEO in 2011.

Mr. Watson is responsible for crafting the future vision of CMTC, promoting the importance of the manufacturing sector and expanding the awareness of CMTC's capabilities throughout California. With over 30 years of management experience in areas of strategic planning, operations management, organizational design, sales and marketing and change management, Mr. Watson brings a wide range of knowledge to his position as President and CEO. He started his career with Western Airlines advancing to Vice President of Passenger and Cargo Sales, then became the Vice President and General Manager of SuperShuttle International before moving to Anchor Audio as the Vice President of Sales and General Manager, Europe.

Mr. Watson holds a bachelor's degree in political science from California State University, Northridge.