

Assembly Committee on Jobs, Economic Development, and the Economy

Upward Mobility in the Inland Empire
Wednesday, September 25, 2019, at 9:30 am
Corona City Council Chamber
400 South Vicentia Avenue
Corona, California

Witnesses' Biographies

Amber Bolden, Senior Project Manager, California Forward

Amber began her career working for the Baltimore City Mayor's Office of Employment Development in 2009. She worked specifically with youth, young adults and individuals who had been charged with criminal offenses to find employment and job training opportunities. Amber's experience working in employment development during the height of the recession deepened her understanding of the direct relationship between work and community. She also received recognition for her work in facilitating job training and placement that was funded through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

Amber lives and works in Riverside County. She participated in the Western Riverside Council of Governments' Public Service Fellowship Program while pursuing her master's degree. Before joining California Forward, she worked with the Western Municipal Water District as a communications specialist. Her work in Riverside County has provided her with a sincere appreciation for the community assets and opportunities within the region.

Amber was born and raised in Baltimore, Maryland. She earned her bachelor's degree in journalism from the University of Maryland, College Park. She also earned her master's degree in public policy from the University of California, Riverside. She is a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated. She is also a doula and a member of the Sankofa Birth-workers of the Inland Empire.

Matthew Horton, Associate Director, Center for Regional Economics, Milken Institute

Matt Horton is an associate director of the Milken Institute Center for Regional Economics & California Center. In this capacity, he interacts with government officials, business leaders, and other key stakeholders in directing statewide programming and policy initiatives while implementing the Center's strategic plan. He also analyzes policy developments at the local, state and federal levels while monitoring national and global trends for potential impacts throughout the regional economic landscape. Horton works to enhance the center's impact through its efforts to identify, promote, and scale best practices in public policy.

Horton's programmatic work at the Institute is focused on identifying a variety of financial tools, policies and collaborative models that leaders can deploy in order to increase investments toward education, community development and in other areas supporting human capital. Horton looks for establish best practices and conducts research that can inform effective governance practices and position leaders to explore place-based economic development through increases in housing supply, supporting high-quality job growth while prioritizing improvements throughout the built environment. Recently, he has written on how the opportunity zone tax incentive can help build a more inclusive economy.

Previously, Horton worked for the Southern California Association of Governments, the nation's largest metropolitan planning organization. Horton served as the primary point of contact for external and government affairs coordinating regional policy development with elected officials as well as sub-regional, state, and federal stakeholders in Los Angeles and Orange counties. In this role, coordinating with leaders across Southern California in developing plans to address growth, resiliency, and improve quality of life.

Elsa E. Macias, Ph.D., Consultant, Hispanas Organized for Political Equality (HOPE)

Dr. Macias consults on research and policy projects related to information technology policy, education, STEM education, and on Latinx issues. Her clients include the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), the National Center for Women & Information Technology (NCWIT), UC Irvine, the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, CSU Fullerton and Hispanas Organized for Political Equality (HOPE). Dr. Macias was previously at the Rossier School of Education at the University of Southern California (USC), where she was an Associate Research Professor. She focused on data-based decision-making to increase excellence and equity in student outcomes at colleges and universities, organizational learning and change, and diversity in higher education. Prior to that, Dr. Macias oversaw the research agenda on information technology policy at the Tomás Rivera Policy Institute, affiliated with the Claremont Graduate University and USC, where she established a national reputation as an expert on the use and diffusion of technology in diverse populations.

Dr. Macias has briefed elected officials at the federal, state, and local levels, including the Congressional Hispanic Caucus. She has served in an advisory capacity to the National Academy of Sciences (NAS), the Partnership for 21st Century Skills, The Children's Partnership, the International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE), IBM's La Familia Technology Week, and the Center for Media Education (CME). She is a member and past Chair of the Social Science Advisory Board of NCWIT, and she was recognized in the HITEC (Hispanic Information Technology Executive Council) 100 list of the nation's top Hispanic executives and rising stars in information technology for 2008 and 2009. Her research has been funded by the National Science Foundation, the W. K. Kellogg Foundation, IBM, Verizon, and the U.S. Department of Commerce, among others.

Dr. Karthick Ramakrishnan, Chair of the Center for Social Innovation, University of California, Riverside

Karthick Ramakrishnan is professor of public policy and political science at the University of California, Riverside, and founding director of the Center for Social Innovation. He holds a BA in international relations from Brown University and a PhD in politics from Princeton.

Ramakrishnan is also a Board Member of The California Endowment, Chair of the California Commission on APIA Affairs, and Director of the Inland Empire Census Complete Count Committee. Ramakrishnan directs the National Asian American Survey and is founder of AAPIData.com, which publishes demographic data and policy research on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders. He has published many articles and 6 books, including most recently, *Framing Immigrants* (Russell Sage, 2016) and *The New Immigration Federalism* (Cambridge, 2015), and has written dozens of opeds and appeared in over 1,000 news stories. He was recently named to the Frederick Douglass 200 and is currently writing a book on state citizenship in the United States. More information at <http://karthick.com>.

Molly Wiltshire, Assistant Director, San Bernardino County Workforce Development Board

Molly Wiltshire serves as the Assistant Director for the San Bernardino County Workforce Development Board, where she oversees the department's initiatives to build a relevant and responsive workforce to meet the region's growing industry needs. Ms. Wiltshire's experience includes work at various levels of government, including six years with the County. Most recently, she served as the Chief of Staff for a former Third District County Supervisor. She earned a Bachelor of Arts in Government from the University of Redlands and a Master of Public Administration from California State University, San Bernardino. As a San Bernardino County native, she has witnessed the impact that regional initiatives have had in changing the lives of Inland Empire residents for generations to come.