



ILCMA Summer Conference 2024 Speaker Bios

(listed alphabetically)

ELLEN BAER

Ellen Baer is the Village Manager of Western Springs, serving in this position since 2021. She has 32 years of experience in local government administration. Prior to serving in her current position, Ellen served as the Director of Administrative Services in Western Springs; the Assistant Village Manager in Orland Park for 13 years; and held administrative positions in Lombard, Naperville, and Riverside. Ellen has a Masters degree in Public Administration from Northern Illinois University, and a Bachelors degree in Political Science and Public Administration from Lewis University. She is a founding member of the Legacy Group and a member of ICMA, ILCMA, and Metro Managers.

TAYLOR BAXTER

Taylor's combined experience in municipal government spans over 15 years. He has had the opportunity to serve in several positions across a variety of municipal departments including public works, water, wastewater, parks, recreation, and is currently the City Administrator for the City of Clinton, Illinois. As the Chief Administrative Officer, he leads the city through management and oversight of 9 separate departments including Police, Fire, Economic Development, Streets and Maintenance, Sewer, Water, Parks, Cemetery, and Building/Zoning. Taylor is an experienced municipal government administrator with a strong reputation in leadership and knowledge to best serve diverse populations and interests through high value services in an environmentally and fiscally responsible manner. Taylor holds a bachelor's degree in business administration from Elmhurst University, a master's degree in Leadership from Concordia University Chicago, and is a recent graduate of ICMA's High Performance Leadership Academy. Taylor enjoys the opportunity to serve and give back to his profession. He has had the opportunity to speak at numerous conferences locally and regionally while also being a published contributor in Parks and Rec Business Magazine. Taylor's favorite role is being Dad to his two children, Ella (7) and Brooks (3).

ROB BOYER

Rob Boyer was sworn in as the City Manager for Freeport on May 1, 2023. With a background of organizational leadership spanning 24 years across both public and private sectors, Rob brings expertise in public works and utilities. Before his current role, he served as Deputy City Manager and Public Works Director for Freeport. He is also a proud veteran of the United States Marine Corps, where he served honorably as a Plane Captain and Crew Chief on heavy-lift helicopters in Hawaii.

Rob holds a Master's Degree in Public Administration from the University of Illinois and is a member of the Global Honor Society for Public Administrators. He also earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Organizational and Professional Development from Eastern Illinois University, achieving Dean's List honors. Outside of work, Rob and his wife, Kate, treasure their time with their six children and three grandchildren, particularly in the great outdoors.

JEAN BUECHE

Jean Bueche serves as the Assistant Village Administrator for the Village of Oswego, bringing a wealth of experience in public administration and human resources to the role. Jean's academic background includes a bachelor's degree from Illinois State University and a master's degree in public administration from Northern Illinois University. Jean has also earned the Senior Certified Professional certification from the Society for Human Resources and is a Certified Labor Relations Professional through the National Public Employer Labor Relations Association.

Prior to her current position, Jean served as the Director of Human Resources for the Village of Schaumburg. In this capacity, she oversaw comprehensive HR functions, including talent acquisition, employee relations, and organizational development, contributing significantly to the village's operational efficiency and workplace culture.

Jean also served as the Management Analyst for the Village of Hinsdale, where she gained valuable experience in municipal management and public policy analysis. With a strong background in both human resources and municipal management, Jean is dedicated to fostering a collaborative and efficient environment in the Village of Oswego, ensuring the community continues to thrive and meet the needs of its residents.

JACK CASCONI

Jack Cascone has been working in the local government profession for five years. He began his career at the Village of Lincolnshire, and after four years, moved on to work with the Village of Arlington Heights. He received his undergraduate degrees in Communication and Political Science from Eureka College, and a Master of Public Administration from Northern Illinois University. In his roles in Lincolnshire, Jack led a multi-departmental communication committee and oversaw daily, external communications through a variety of mediums. He also led a Village logo rebranding effort in both Lincolnshire and Arlington Heights, which included implementing a Communication Policy and Visual Brand and Style Guide. Jack is a Planning Services Group Manager for HR Green's Fiber and Broadband Practice. He is nationally known for his industry knowledge of Smart Meters and Smart Grid, fiber deployment, aggregation, and economic development. He has spoken at several industry conferences, has authored several industry articles, and recently served a state-level economic development fellowship. Jack's experience spans the design, engineering, and operation of hundreds of thousands of telecommunications infrastructure, including more than 30,000 miles of lit fiber.

KEVIN CONSIDINE

Kevin Considine is the President & CEO of Lake County Partners, the economic development partnership for the county. He joined LCP almost 10 years ago, with the idea of preventing companies from moving to Wisconsin by identifying their most pressing need, which was almost always finding talent. To keep the companies growing here, LCP formed partnerships with the College of Lake County and the Workforce Development Board to coordinate programs and build talent pipelines.

Under his tenure, Lake County has been a record run, including last year being their best year ever. Over the last 5 years LCP projects have fueled more than 4,000 new jobs, retained more than 4,700 jobs, and attracted more than \$1.2 Billion in direct capital investment.

KELLY COYLE

Kelly Coyle is a Partner with Clark Baird Smith, LLP. She focuses her practice on helping employers successfully navigate through a range of labor and employment law issues. Kelly's labor experience includes litigation grievance arbitration matters; litigating both representation and unfair labor practice cases before the ILRB and ELRB; and counseling employers on their rights and obligations under the Illinois Labor Acts and their respective collective bargaining agreements.

RUDY ESPIRITU

Rudy Espiritu currently serves as the Village Administrator of the Village of Berkeley. Previously, he has served as the Deputy City Manager of Highland Park, Assistant City Manager of DeKalb, Financial Specialist in Rolling Meadows and Budget Analyst for the Village of Oak Park. Rudy is member of the Illinois City/County Management Association, where he serves as Co-Chair for the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee. He is also First Vice President of the Metropolitan Manager's Association and is a member of the International City/County Management Association. He also serves as Chair of the Operations Committee for the Intergovernmental Personnel Benefit Cooperative (IPBC). Rudy is a Credentialed Manager through the International City/County Management Association. He has a Bachelor of Arts Degree and a Master's Degree in Public Administration from the University of Illinois - Chicago.

ANDY FERRINI

Andy Serves as the Village Manager for the Village of Pingree Grove. He started with the Village in September 2023. Pingree Grove is one of the fastest-growing communities in Illinois and currently has a population of approximately 12,000 residents. As the Village's Chief Administrative Officer, he is responsible for the day-to-day operations of Village services, leadership of Village Departments, and the execution of policies and ordinances adopted by the Village President and Board of Trustees.

Before serving the Village of Pingree Grove Andy served as Assistant Village Administrator and Interim Village Administrator at the Village of Indian Head Park. He has a bachelor's degree in political science from Truman State University and a master's degree in public administration from Northern Illinois University. Andy enjoys working in the local government profession and gets satisfaction from solving problems and promoting the public interest in his professional life.

JEFF FIEGENSCHUH

Jeff began his tenure as the Rochelle City Manager in September 2017. Prior to that he served 3 years as the City Administrator in Rantoul and 4 years as the City Manager in Princeton. Jeff is a native of Nebraska and a lifelong Husker fan. He earned his Bachelor of Science in Political Science from Wayne State College in Wayne, Nebraska and his Master of Public Administration through the University of Nebraska at Omaha in 2004. Jeff is an ICMA Credentialed City Manager and is a graduate of the University of Virginia and ICMA Senior Executive Institute. Jeff's passion is working to help communities grow and thrive. When he is not working, Jeff loves to spend time with his family, traveling, collecting Marvel and Star-Wars memorabilia and watching Husker Football and Red Sox baseball.

MATTHEW GALLOWAY

Matthew Galloway is a dedicated economic development professional with a proven track record of success. As the Economic Development Coordinator for the Village of Roselle, Matthew leads negotiations for redevelopment projects and formulates strategies to expand the municipality's economic footprint. His tenure as a Management Analyst in Hoffman Estates and Northbrook equipped him with invaluable experience in managing grants and implementing strategic plans. Matthew's commitment to community improvement extends beyond his professional roles, as evidenced by his volunteer work with organizations like the Student Veterans of America and Bunker Labs. With affiliations with prominent professional associations like ILCMA and CDFA, Matthew continues to drive economic growth and prosperity in his community.

MOLLY B. GILLESPIE

Molly Gillespie is an experienced communicator and creative who is passionate about making people, places and things look and feel their best. She spent most of a decade with the City of Elgin where she diversified her skillset. There she transformed the City's online presence and enhanced its image through strategic branding and marketing efforts. Her work in social media growth and engagement earned her the Marguerite Henry Award for Communication and Technology in 2016. She joined the Village of the Buffalo Grove in 2022 to lead its new Communications and Community Engagement Department. She has already made a mark on the community and is working to implement strategies and jumpstart initiatives that enhance the Village's identity as well as its internal and external communications.

PETE GUGLIOTTA

Peter Gugliotta is the Director of Development Services at the Village of Hoffman Estates, where he oversees more than 30 staff in four divisions covering all aspects of development, as well as infrastructure planning and design. After obtaining a Master's of Urban Planning degree from UW-Milwaukee, Peter started his career as a planner at the Village of Carol Stream in 1991 before beginning his tenure with Hoffman Estates as Senior Planner in 1996. After promotions to Planning Director in 2007, then Planning, Building and Code Enforcement Director in 2014, he assumed his current position in 2020.

Throughout his career Peter has advocated for efficiency and process improvements and is always looking for ways his entire organization can better meet community needs. He enjoys challenging staff to grow within their professions, and after 33 years of public service looks forward to seeing the next generation of leaders rise to meet the challenges of the future.

PETER KAGEYMA

Peter Kageyama is the author of *For the Love of Cities: The Love Affair Between People and Their Places*, the follow ups, *Love Where You Live: Creating Emotionally Engaging Places* and, *The Emotional Infrastructure of Places*. In 2021, he released *For the Love of Cities REVISITED*, a revised and updated version of the award winning book. Peter is a Senior Fellow with the Alliance for Innovation, a national network of city leaders and a special advisor to America In Bloom.

He is an internationally sought-after community development consultant and grassroots engagement strategist who speaks all over the world about bottom-up community development and the amazing people who are making change happen.

PAUL LALONDE

Paul is a deliberate HR pro, who believes philosophy is a difference making pursuit in business and life. Learning, teaching, and being of service to others are his purpose. Currently, Paul serves as the VP of People & Culture for CEDA of Cook County, Inc. in Chicago. He also operates his side gig consulting business HR Logic, LLC. Paul has won numerous awards including recognition for his blog "the HR Philosopher." He is also a bestselling author of the book People Fusion: Best Practices to Build and Retain a Strong Team. Paul is a proud husband, father, disobedient cat owner, Star Wars nerd, and metalhead. Connect with him on LinkedIn.

ROBERT (BOB) LAVIGNA

As Senior Fellow – Public Sector for UKG, Bob advocates for, promotes and advises on effective practices that enable government to attract and retain talent. He previously was Director of the Institute for Public Sector Employee Engagement, Assistant Vice Chancellor and Director of Human Resources for the University of Wisconsin, Vice President – Research for the nonprofit Partnership for Public Service and Director of the state of Wisconsin civil service system. Bob began his career with the U.S. Government Accountability Office.

He is a Fellow of the National Academy of Public Administration and was selected as a "Public Official of the Year" by Governing magazine. Bob is a past national president of the Public Sector Human Resource Association and past chair of the ASPA Section on Personnel and Labor Relations. He writes frequently on HR topics for professional publications and has spoken at conferences and events across the U.S. and abroad. Bob's book, "Engaging Government Employees" (Harper Collins), is the first book to focus on employee engagement in the unique environment of the public sector. He has a B.A. in public affairs from George Washington University and an M.S. in human resources management from Cornell University. A recent conference attendee described Bob's session as, "Wonderfully engaging, thought provoking, and informative sessions today. The highlight of the day!"

JOE MARANOWICZ

Joe Maranowicz has been with the Village of Addison for 24 years. He worked for 20 years with the Addison Police Department retiring as the Deputy Chief of Police in May of 2020. He has served for the past 4 years as the Village Manager of Addison. Joe has a Bachelor's Degree in Management and a Master's Degree in Public Safety Administration. He also teaches across the United States with Resilient Minds on the Front Lines which is a course designed to make individuals more resilient to the negative stressors of life to be more productive at home and in the workplace. Joe is married to his wife of Belinda for twenty years and together they have 3 high school aged sons.

ERIC MCELVENNY

Eric McElvenny is a lucky husband and proud father of three. In 2006, Eric graduated from the United States Naval Academy while preparing for his service as a Marine Corps Infantry Officer. Eric deployed three times as a Marine and on his final tour, an experience in Afghanistan, was wounded after stepping on an IED. Eric suffered the amputation of his right leg, a life-changing opportunity that began his next journey.

Faced with a physical challenge and uncertain future, Eric made a promise to himself to run an Ironman Triathlon. Eric went on to complete 8 Ironman Triathlons to include the World Championships in 2013. Eric recently had the privilege of representing Team USA at the 2020 Paralympics in Tokyo, Japan.

Throughout his journey, Eric realized that the challenges and adversity he was up against and the techniques he used to reach the finish line could be used against the challenges we all entertain. When not training, racing and delivering inspiration, Eric can be found with his wife Rachel and three children in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

CODY MOAKE

Cody Moake has served as the Chief of Staff to the City of Marion's Mayor Mike Absher since 2019. In addition to his administrative duties and in partnership with Jacob & Klein and the Economic Development Group, Cody also serves as the City's TIF & STAR Bond Administrator. Cody earned his MPA from the University of Illinois-Springfield. Prior to his time at the City of Marion, he worked as an Outreach Coordinator at the Illinois State Treasurer's office. Cody resides in Marion with his wife and two daughters.

DAVEN MORRISON, M.D.

Daven Morrison, M.D. is a board certified psychiatrist. Working on Morrison Associates' projects since 1980, Daven began as a full-time consultant in 1996. As Director of Medical Services and Director of Individual Consultations, his primary roles include leading individual consultations for executives, facilitating seminars, and developing new products. His current suite of education programs include an in-house program, Making Performance Management Discussions Work for You, which is designed to help managers and their direct reports develop a sense of mastery around tough discussions on performance. His course has been adapted for internal training and education programs at Accenture, Food Lion, Kraft and Motorola.

Daven was born in New York City, and raised in Topeka, Kansas and Barrington, Illinois. He graduated from Northwestern University in 1988 with a degree in Spanish literature, in 1992 from the University of Illinois College of Medicine. Daven's psychiatric residency was completed at University Hospitals of Case Western in Cleveland in 1996. He was a Chief Resident his final year. He is an active member Board member of the Information Integrity Coalition and a board member and an Officer of the Academy of Organizational and Occupational Psychiatry. He is also a member of the Group for the Advancement of Psychiatry where he is on the Committee for Work and Organizations. Daven is a friend and resource to many Managers and municipal organizations in the Chicagoland area and beyond.

ERIC PALM

Eric Palm, the Village Manager of Hoffman Estates, began his career in government administration over 20 years ago in the City of Des Plaines and quickly rose to leadership positions. He tackled economic challenges in Hampshire and River Forest, achieving balanced budgets, improved bond ratings, and infrastructure projects. Now leading Hoffman Estates, he has strengthened the village's finances and maintained a zero-percent tax levy increase. Active in intergovernmental cooperation with his current role as the board chair for the Northwest Central Dispatch System and service on numerous other boards. Eric holds a Masters in Public Administration from Northern Illinois University, a Masters in Communication from Central Michigan University, and his Bachelors in Telecommunication Arts from Butler University. Fun fact from his college days, Eric hosted a 5th grade kids game show called "Think Big" for the local public television.

PETER SCHAAK

Peter Schaak is the Director of Information Technology for the Village of Schaumburg. As Director, Peter oversees all aspects of Information Technology including administration, innovation, cybersecurity, technical support, application development, and the Village's 311 Center. Under Peter's leadership, the Village of Schaumburg has been nationally recognized as a leader in providing technology services to the Village and its many residents, businesses, and visitors.

Battling cybersecurity attacks is a daily focus for Peter and his staff. Through the timely deployment of a variety of hardware and software tools, the Village of Schaumburg strives to stay ahead of the many threat actors attempting to compromise village systems.

Peter holds a bachelor's degree in Finance from Northeastern Illinois University and a master's degree in Business Administration from DePaul University. He has over 25 years of information technology experience with the last 16 years in the public sector.

SARAH SCHILLERSTROM

With a successful career in local government spanning nearly two decades, Sarah quickly rose through the ranks and held multiple positions across various departments, including Public Works, Administrative Services, Human Resources and the Village Manager's Office. During her tenure, she served as the Human Resources Director for almost a decade and concluded her service as the Deputy Village Manager. She started her career as a L.P. Cookingham-Noll Fellow and Budget Analyst with the City of Kansas City, MO.

Sarah founded SRSD Consulting, LLC because she believes public servants deserve a workplace where they have opportunities to grow and develop, are supported by strong leaders, and are valued for their contributions.

SRSD supports public sector organizations in developing and implementing strategies to retain their best people, cultivate strong leadership and future successors, and intentionally create an organizational culture that people want to embrace.

As a certified professional coach, Sarah utilizes a coaching approach and draws on the principles of Energy Leadership™, to identify the root causes and barriers to progress, and guide individuals, teams, and organizations in effecting incremental, consistent, and impactful change.

PARTH SHAH

Parth Shah is the CEO and Co-Founder of Polimorphic, the leader in AI tools and workflow automation for local government. Parth is an MIT engineer and ran the MIT Machine Intelligence Community. Before Polimorphic, he worked at Nvidia working on Machine Learning and was a founding engineer at a startup building data analytics tools to power smart cities.

JESSICA SPENCER

Jessica Spencer serves as the Assistant Village Administrator for the Village of River Forest. She obtained her graduate degree in Public Administration from the University of Illinois Springfield. Post graduation in Springfield, she embarked on a career in government, contributing her skills at the Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services within the Bureau of Managed Care. In this role, Jessica played a significant part in procurement management and operations. Driven by her goal to directly impact communities and enhance residents' lives. Over nearly a decade, she has dedicated her expertise to various local governments, either through direct employment or consultancy. Her contributions have benefited municipalities such as the villages of Campton Hills, Westchester, Itasca, Oak Brook, and the City of Chicago.

GREG SUMMERS

Greg Summers is the Village Manager for the Village of Oak Brook, Illinois; serving in this position since January 2022. He has over 20 years' experience in local government, previously serving as the Assistant Village Manager in Orland Park in addition to prior experience in the Village's of Barrington, Buffalo Grove, and Menomonee Falls, Wisconsin; as well as six years in the private sector. Greg is a graduate of Washington University in Saint Louis, and received his Master's of Urban Planning from the University of Wisconsin - Milwaukee. Greg is an AICP certified planner in addition to his ICMA-CM credential.

MARK TOALSON

Mark Toalson is the Information Technologies Director for the City of Champaign, Illinois; serving in this role since July of 2012. He has been with the City of Champaign since 2007, previously serving as the Assistant IT Director for GIS. Mark has 21 total years of local government experience having served as the GIS Manager for the Champaign County GIS Consortium prior to his time at the City. Mark's career also includes 15+ years working in the private sector in the field of digital mapping.

JOSH WRAY

Josh Wray began his career with the Village of Hampshire focusing on community and economic development and capital planning. He saw the annexation of 300 acres of future industrial park, over 1.5 million square feet of new commercial construction, re-platting of major residential subdivisions totaling 3,000 lots, and revitalization of downtown with over \$700,000 invested into historic buildings and four new small businesses opening. Josh is now the Director of Economic Development with the City of Pekin where he manages five TIF districts, a business development district, an enterprise zone, and over 200 acres of City-owned greenfield sites. Josh maintains a development philosophy centered on continuous process improvement, customer-oriented thinking, and branding through action.

Josh grew up in Princeton, Illinois, where he gained his love for small towns. He is a graduate of Washington University in St. Louis and the Northern Illinois University MPA program. He volunteers on the board of directors for the United Way of Pekin and the strategic planning committee for Pekin Public Schools District 108.