
VERA KREKANOVA

Chief Research Officer, Allegheny Conference on Community Development



Vera Krekanova, Ph.D. joined the Allegheny Conference on Community Development as the Chief Research Officer in April of 2018. In this role, Vera is responsible for coordinating all quantitative and qualitative research, championing the use of data and information across the organization, and framing the messaging around the state of the Pittsburgh region's economy.

Vera is an accomplished practitioner and scholar in the interdisciplinary field of economic and workforce development, who specializes in policies and programmatic interventions.

Prior to joining the Conference, Vera served as the Chief Strategy Officer for Partner4Work where she established and managed a collaborative research-to-practice platform to advance workforce development efforts in the city of Pittsburgh and Allegheny County. At Partner4Work, Vera directed a team of six researchers that analyzed policies, evaluated programs, and produced qualitative and quantitative reports designed to educate employers, policy-makers and other workforce development stakeholders.

With more than 20 years of experience in the non-profit sector, Vera has been recognized for organizational leadership, implementing successful public-private initiatives, spearheading innovation, and generating funding and new business opportunities.

Vera often presents on workforce development and economic issues to regional and national audiences, and has authored or co-authored a number of reports and academic papers.

Since 2010, she has served as an adjunct faculty member at the University of Pittsburgh's Graduate School of Public and International Affairs. Vera also serves on the Health Career Future and Friends of Via boards, The Federal Reserve Bank's Pittsburgh Business Advisory Council, and the Global Women's Health Activist Movement.

Vera earned a Ph.D. from the University of Pittsburgh, focusing on social and comparative analysis in public policy, a Master of Science in non-profit management from Robert Morris University, and a BA in Social Work from Charles University in Prague.

Vera lives in the Strip District with her husband John.

