
VERA KREKANOVA

Chief Strategy & Research Officer, Allegheny Conference on Community Development



Vera Krekanova, Ph.D. joined the Allegheny Conference on Community Development as the Chief Strategy & 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 and strategies to advance the Pittsburgh region's vitality. She manages the PA Economy League of Greater Pittsburgh. In addition, she leads the Conference's efforts in community development and economic inclusion.

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.

With more than 25 years of international experience as a practitioner and scholar in the interdisciplinary field of economic and workforce development, Vera has been recognized for organizational leadership, implementing successful public-private initiatives, infusing research into practice, spearheading innovation, and generating funding and new business opportunities.

Since 2010, Vera has served as an adjunct faculty member at the University of Pittsburgh's Graduate School of Public and International Affairs. She also serves on the boards of the Jewish Healthcare Foundation's Health Career Future, the Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland's Pittsburgh Branch, Friends of Via, 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.

