
CECELIA CAGNI

Chief Marketing and Communications Officer, Allegheny Conference on Community Development



Cecelia Cagni joined the Allegheny Conference in 1999 and currently serves as the organization's Chief Marketing and Communications Officer. In this capacity, she oversees the development and delivery of marketing and communications strategies and products that support the Conference and its affiliated organizations – The Greater Pittsburgh Chamber of Commerce, the Pennsylvania Economy League of Greater Pittsburgh, LLC, and the Pittsburgh Regional Alliance.

Prior to her current role, Cecelia served most recently as the Vice President of Operations for the Pittsburgh Regional Alliance (PRA) – the Conference's economic development marketing affiliate and a six-time recipient of Site Selection magazine's "Top U.S. Economic Development Organization" designation. Cecelia has also worked as a policy analyst with another Allegheny Conference affiliate, the Pennsylvania Economy League of Greater Pittsburgh.

Cecelia began her career at the Carnegie Museums of Pittsburgh. She was recently elected to the board of NAIOP Pittsburgh and serves on the steering committee for ULI Pittsburgh's Women's Leadership Initiative.

Cecelia earned a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from the University of Pittsburgh. She is a native of the Pittsburgh region.



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.



MAJESTIC LANE

Chief Equity Officer, Allegheny Conference on Community Development



Majestic Lane has over 20 years of experience as a Non-Profit executive, municipal leader and social entrepreneur. Currently, Majestic is the Chief Equity Officer for the Allegheny Conference on Community Development. In this role, Majestic leads the Conference's efforts to advance economic equity and inclusion for the ten-county region of Southwestern Pennsylvania. Prior to his leadership at the conference, Majestic served as Deputy Chief of Staff and the inaugural Chief Equity Officer in the office of Mayor William Peduto where he established the city of Pittsburgh's first Office of Equity and led the Peduto administration's focus on opportunity for all residents of the

City of Pittsburgh in Education, Workforce Development, Safe & Healthy Communities and Digital Inclusion. Majestic has also served as a director on several boards including the Housing Authority of the City of Pittsburgh, Partner4Work & Repair the World. Majestic attended the University of Pittsburgh & Lives in North Point Breeze.



WILLIAM (WILLY) D. MCKAIN CPA

Chief Operating Officer, Allegheny Conference on Community Development



William (Willy) McKain serves as chief operating officer of the Allegheny Conference on Community Development, a position he assumed in February 2023. In this role, McKain oversees the internal operations of the private sector civic leadership organization, including Human Resources, Investor Relations, Information Technology and Facilities Management, as well as management of the work plan.

Prior to joining the Conference, McKain served as Allegheny county manager for more than a decade. He was responsible for the day-to-day operations of Allegheny County's 20 departments, more than 5,000 employees and a total budget exceeding \$2 billion, the second largest county budget in Pennsylvania. A certified public accountant (CPA), McKain also has experience in grant compliance reporting requirements for local, state and federal governments.

Under McKain's leadership, Allegheny County held the line on property taxes, increased its fund balance and received its highest bond rating in four decades. McKain oversaw the launch of the Park Rangers program and redeployment of county police to impact teams to serve communities in need better, directed the creation of three departments (Facilities Management, Information Technology and Children Initiatives) along with the transformation of a fourth department (Equity and Inclusion) and managed the courthouse roof project, transforming the courthouse and the downtown area.

As the county's chief administrator, McKain focused on increasing the transparency of county government by making data and information available to the public. He also expanded the use of technology across an array of initiatives from implementation of comprehensive integrated budget software and paperless contracting to leveraging Allegheny Alerts to communicate with residents and partnering on a purchasing consortium to allow municipalities to serve their communities better. During his tenure as county manger, McKain ensured funding and scheduling for several strategically important public works projects including the Sister Bridges rehabilitation, renovation of the former US Airways Service Center, the relocation of Allegheny County Emergency Services and the transition of the Kane Regional Centers to Kane Community Living Centers which offer a broader range of services to better meet the needs of residents.

Prior to his appointment as County Manager in July 2012, Willy served as the assistant to the superintendent for finance and operations for the Baldwin-Whitehall School District, beginning in October of 2009. He was also the finance director for the Municipality of Mt. Lebanon for seven years and worked in various capacities, including financial statement preparer, internal audit manager, and assistant budget director for Allegheny County government.

McKain has been a frequent presenter at the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) state conferences and chapter seminars and at the Pennsylvania Institute of Certified Public Accountants (PICPA) Local Government Conference. In addition, he has participated in numerous seminars as a presenter for the Local Government Academy (LGA), including their Newly Elected Officials Course, and has been a Budget/Finance team member of the LGA Pillars of Good Government for use in evaluating the value and performance of local government services.

A member of the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) and the Pennsylvania Institute of Certified Public Accountants (PICPA), McKain earned two bachelor's degrees at Robert Morris College (University) in accounting and business management.

Willy and his wife, Francine, live in Mt. Lebanon and have two sons.



STEFANI PASHMAN

Chief Executive Officer, Allegheny Conference on Community Development



Stefani Pashman became the Chief Executive Officer of the Allegheny Conference on Community Development and its affiliated organizations – the Greater Pittsburgh Chamber of Commerce, the Pennsylvania Economy League of Greater Pittsburgh, LLC and the Pittsburgh Regional Alliance – on October 2, 2017. For more than 75 years, the Conference, one of the United States’ foremost civic leadership organizations, has been bringing together public and private sector leaders to drive an agenda to improve the economic future and quality of life in the 10-county Pittsburgh region.

Stefani has spent a decade in Pittsburgh. Before joining the Conference she served as CEO of Partner4Work and its predecessor, the Three Rivers Workforce Investment Board (3RWIB) – a complex non-profit organization that educates the region on labor market dynamics, funds public and private workforce programs and connects local employers with qualified talent. With a strong entrepreneurial spirit, Stefani transformed the organization from a \$1.5 million research-based organization into a nearly \$20 million public-private system that relies on research and analytics to make change in the community. Under her leadership, Partner4Work streamlined its use of public dollars, reducing administrative overhead by more than half a million dollars; established the innovative Pittsburgh Works network of more than 80 workforce development agencies; implemented the Learn and Earn summer internship program; created a business solutions team focused on external corporate outreach; and launched the Quick Train for Jobs website to help job seekers find quality training.

Prior to entering the workforce field, Stefani spent many years in the healthcare field, in both policy and strategy roles. Most recently, she served in Governor Rendell’s Administration for nearly seven years at the PA Department of Human Services as Director of Policy and as Special Assistant to the Secretary, leading policy changes in human service programs, primarily Medicaid. She has also worked in private consulting at Avalere Health and Navigant, and as an analyst in the White House Office of Management and Budget. Stefani holds an M.B.A. and a Masters in Health Administration from the University of Michigan and a B.A. from Washington University in St. Louis.

She is active in numerous national and local organizations. Her board service has included the Federal Reserve Board of Cleveland, Pittsburgh Board; the U.S. Conference of Mayors Workforce Development Council; Vibrant Pittsburgh; and the Jewish Community Center of Greater Pittsburgh, where she is an officer. She is a graduate of Leadership Pittsburgh and was elected to the International Women’s Forum. She resides in the Squirrel Hill neighborhood of Pittsburgh with her husband and three children.



JANEL M. SKELLEY

Chief Financial Officer, Allegheny Conference on Community Development



Janel Skelley joined the Allegheny Conference on Community Development in 2005 and is the Conference's chief financial officer. Janel oversees all of the financial operations of the organization including the preparation of internal and external financial reports, review of legal contracts and agreements, evaluation of investment activities for sound financial practices and compliance with all federal and state laws. She also oversees all of the human resource, information technologies and administrative operations of the Conference including facilities management and space planning.

Prior to joining the Conference, Janel was the controller at FFC Capital, a privately held family office specializing in investment management across various asset classes including marketable securities, private equities, derivatives, hedge funds, venture capital funds and real estate. Prior to FFC, she spent more than five years as the controller of PNC Equity Management Corporation, the private equity affiliate of the PNC Financial Services Group, Inc. Her career began in 1995 as she spent four years with Ernst & Young, LLC in their audit and assurance practice. She also spent a portion of her time within E&Y's Securities and Derivatives Products Group, analyzing clients' investment portfolios to validate fair market values of marketable and non-marketable investments, including a variety of derivative instruments.

Janel completed her BSBA from Duquesne University in 1995 with a major in accounting. She is a Certified Public Accountant and is a member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants.

Janel currently serves on the board of directors of the Pittsburgh Zoo & PPG Aquarium and the Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank, is the Secretary / Treasurer of the Power of 32 Site Development Fund, LLC and the Treasurer of the Strategic Investment Fund, Inc. She was born in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania and currently resides in Bradfordwoods, Pennsylvania with her husband Jason and daughter Bryn.



MATT SMITH

President, Greater Pittsburgh Chamber of Commerce



Matt Smith became president of the Greater Pittsburgh Chamber of Commerce, an affiliate of the Allegheny Conference on Community Development, in June 2015. The Chamber advocates at the local, state and federal levels to improve the economy and the quality of life for all who live, work and do business in the 10-county Pittsburgh region.

Prior to joining the Chamber, Smith represented the 37th Senatorial District serving in the Pennsylvania State Senate. While in the Senate, Smith served as the minority chairman of the Banking and Insurance Committee and of the State Government Committee. He also served on the Aging and Youth Committee, Appropriations Committee, Judiciary Committee and Transportation Committee.

During his Senate term, Smith was also appointed to the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency, the Basic Education Funding Commission, and the Joint Legislative Air and Water Pollution Control and Conservation Committee.

Before being elected to the Senate, Smith served three terms in the Pennsylvania House of Representatives. He sat on the Appropriations Committee during his entire tenure and spent his final House term as the minority Subcommittee Chair on Economic Impact and Infrastructure. He also served on the House Finance Committee as the minority Vice Chair as well as the Insurance, Agriculture & Rural Affairs Committees. He worked in a bipartisan manner on reform efforts such as reducing the size of the legislature and championed student health and safety initiatives.

Born and raised in Bethel Park, Smith is a graduate of Bethel Park High School. He earned a Bachelor of Arts in History from Rollins College in Winter Park, Florida and holds a law degree from Duquesne University in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania where he was a member of the Duquesne Law Review.

Prior to serving in elected office, Smith worked as an attorney for the law firm of Babst Calland in Pittsburgh where he specialized in employment law.

Smith is a recipient of the Pittsburgh Airport Area Chamber of Commerce 2014 Chamber and Community Champion Award and of the Airport Corridor Transportation Association 2014 Community Partner Award; both awards recognized Smith and fellow legislators for their bipartisan achievements.

Smith has also received the 2013 ACHIEVA Award of Excellence in Legislation in recognition of advocacy and policy efforts to serve individuals with physical and intellectual disabilities. In 2011, he received the Pennsylvania chapter of the American Institute of Architects (AIA) Government Award for his leadership in promoting sustainable development. In 2007, he was named State Elected Official of the Year by the Allegheny County Library Association.

Smith's service to the region was recognized by *Pittsburgh Magazine* and the Pittsburgh Urban Magnet Project (PUMP) as a 2010 Pittsburgh '40 Under 40' award winner.

Smith currently serves on the boards of: the Allegheny County Airport Authority, The Children's Institute, and the Pennsylvania Chamber of Business and Industry.

He lives in Mount Lebanon with his wife Eileen, their daughters Delaney and Emerson and son Jameson.

