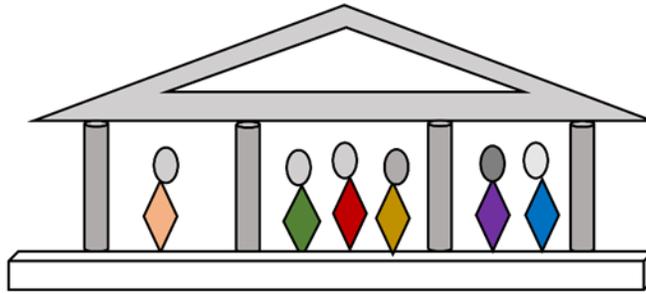


# PROGRAM AND FEATURED SPEAKERS



Community College Summit 2022



**Susquehanna Valley  
Community Education Project**

Facilitating the establishment of a Susquehanna Valley Community College



OCTOBER 7, 2022

**9:00 Welcome - Dr. Lenaire Ahlum  
Founder, Executive Director, SVCEP**

**9:15 Sister Mary Persico  
President Marywood University  
Partnership with SVCEP**

**10:00 Elizabeth Bolden  
President and CEO  
Pennsylvania Commission for Community Colleges**

**10:45 Michael Dotts  
Higher Education Expert  
Pennsylvania Department of Education**

**11:30 Dr. Lenaire Ahlum  
Survey Results - Public Anchor Community College**

**11:50 Lunch**

**1:00 Chris Gray  
Founding President  
Erie County Community College**

**1:45 Anna Brown  
Lightcast, Vice President of Education Consulting**

**2:30 Fritz Heinemann  
President and CEO  
Andy Russell Charitable Foundation**

**3:30 Hank Baylor and Meghan Beck  
SVCEP Board Directors**

**4:00 Adjourn**



**Sister Mary Persico, IHM, Ed.D.  
President, Marywood University**

Sister Mary Persico is currently serving as the twelfth president of Marywood University, Scranton, PA. Previously she was the Executive Vice-President of Mission Integration for Trinity Health, Livonia, MI, and the former Catholic Health East, Newtown Square, PA. Prior to these ministries, Sister Mary served as treasurer and then president of the religious congregation of the Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, Scranton, PA. She also served in Catholic secondary education as Principal and teacher for many years.

Sister Mary serves on several boards including Pennsylvania Humanities; Association of Independent Colleges and Universities of Pennsylvania; Global Health Ministry, a subsidiary of Trinity Health, Livonia, MI; the African Sisters Education Collaborative; the Greater Scranton Chamber of Commerce, and Marywood University.

Sister Mary has spent most of her life in the field of education. She holds a bachelor's degree in French and education from Marywood College (now University), a master's degree in French from Assumption College (now University), Worcester, Mass., and a doctoral degree in educational leadership from Lehigh University, Bethlehem, Pa. Since its inception, Sister Mary has had a relationship with the African Sisters Education Collaborative (ASEC), a program designed to provide leadership education in business, administration, and spirituality to leaders of congregations of women religious in ten African countries. She was a founding member of the Leadership Academy, Trinity Health/Seton Hall University, which established a certificate program in leadership formation for high-level national health care leaders. For more than 30 years, Sister Mary has facilitated meetings and other gatherings of women religious in Europe, South America, Africa, Canada, Australia, and the United States. She has presented on various topics including leadership and organizational restructuring in various settings. She has also presented at numerous educational and leadership conferences on a variety of topics.



## Pennsylvania Commission for Community Colleges President & CEO Elizabeth A. Bolden

Elizabeth Bolden was appointed president and CEO of the Pennsylvania Commission for Community Colleges by its board as of January 2, 2014. The role entails serving as the chief spokesperson for the state's 15 community colleges, which serve more than 120,000 credit students and thousands of noncredit, workforce and adult students. Bolden's responsibilities include working with Pennsylvania leaders seeking expansion of community college programs and with the leaders of other higher education providers in promoting coordinated opportunities.

Bolden currently serves on the Executive Committee of the Community College Association Executives and is a member of the University of Maryland Global Campus Community College Policy and Administration Advisory Board. In 2017, she received the Distinguished Community College State Director Award from Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society. Bolden previously served as a Commissioner for the Education Commission of the States and as a Governing Board member of the Mid-Atlantic Regional Educational Laboratories.

Prior to joining the Commission, Bolden served as the director of Policy for the Pennsylvania Department of Education. Previously, she served in the Education Policy Office as a budget and legislative analyst and in the Governor's Budget Office, where she developed policy and legislation on various issues including education.

Bolden's experience in the private sector includes working in the Congressional Relations Division of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce in Washington, D.C., and as deputy director of coalition development with the Wexler Group. She also served as an adjunct faculty member at HACC, Central Pennsylvania's Community College and at York College.

Bolden completed her bachelor's degree at Washington University in St. Louis with a double major in Spanish and political science. She received her master's degree in political science and public policy from Rutgers University's Eagleton Institute of Politics.



**Michael Dotts**

**Higher Education Expert**

**Pennsylvania Department of Education**

Michael Dotts has over 20 years of experience in higher education and community colleges. He has spent the last 17 years in the Office of Postsecondary and Higher Education at the Pennsylvania Department of Education. He is currently a Higher Education Associate and serves as the Department's Community College Liaison. Prior to his time at the Department, Mike served as the Assistant Director for Research and Advocacy at the Pennsylvania Commission for Community Colleges.



## Chris Gray Founding President Erie County Community College

**Dr. Christopher Gray**, Founding President of Erie County Community College of Pennsylvania is an educator, artist, and community advocate. He has taught speech and theatre in higher education for twenty years and is active in community and regional theatre.

Chris holds a Master's degree in theatre and a PhD in Educational Administration and Foundations with a research area of Theatre Assessment. Chris is a graduate from, and a firm believer in the community college. Dr. Gray's professional focus has been strengthening regional ecosystems by building workforces. Connecting local business and industry needs to students interested in high-paid, in-demand careers enhance the entire community. Chris believes in the power of collaboration between community colleges, business, and civic partners to shape the local economic development.

Dr. Gray is a peer reviewer for the Higher Learning Commission and is certified in Baldrige systems. Dr. Gray serves his community through service to local Chambers of Commerce, church involvement, and other civic organizations. Dr. Gray is an arts advocate having served on numerous boards including Williams Street Repertory (equity theatre), ArtsPartners of Central Illinois, Live Theatre League of Greater Peoria, Peoria Symphony Orchestra, and Corn Stock Theatre. Chris led an effort to develop an Arts and Culture Plan for the Peoria Region as part of a Housing and Urban Development grant. Chris also gives back to his community through involvement through numerous volunteer and service opportunities including volunteering at Hannah Beardsley Middle School, Hooked on Fishing, Boy Scouts, WCHS Band Boosters, and serving as a judge for IHSA Speech and Drama competitions.



Anna Brown

Vice President of Education Consulting

**Anna Brown** is an Economist and the Vice President of Education Consulting at Lightcast (formerly Emsi Burning Glass). She provided project oversight of data collection, methodology, modeling, and report writing. Anna has over 11 years of experience with Lightcast conducting capital analyses and economic impact studies, has helped manage some of Lightcast's highest-profile work, and has served as Project Manager for over 150 projects during her time at Lightcast. Anna's experience spans an array of topics including regional economics, labor economics, econometrics, economic impact analysis, and benefit/cost analysis.

Anna is also experienced in conducting workforce gap analyses and regional cluster economic analyses for higher education, workforce investment boards, and economic development organizations. Anna has her Master's degree in Applied Economics from the University of Idaho. She also holds Bachelor's degrees in Economics, International Studies, and German from the University of Idaho.



Fritz Heinemann  
Andy Russell Charitable Foundation



Throughout his nearly 60-year career Fritz M. Heinemann has only worked within the not for profit, charitable, philanthropic arena. He has led multiple non-profit organizations, primarily in “turn around management” crisis situations; conducted fundraising/capital campaigns that raised nearly \$30 million and led seminars on Networking (The Best Net Works), Organizational Management Strategies, and Effective Communications/Building Public Awareness Plans of Action.

Those who know him best most often refer to his boundless energy, enthusiasm and commitment to excellence and the absolute achievement of project success. “Fritz is obsessed with not only meeting a stated goal but exceeding it as well. He can be temperamental if obstacles are placed in his way or negativism creeps in work plans but it’s his nature to seek perfection and quality in all efforts” commented a close friend.

For 25 years Heinemann has been associated with the Andy Russell Charitable Foundation and for the past seven has served as the pro-bono President of the Andy Russell Central PA Foundation Region Office. He says his greatest professional satisfaction derives from working through the Andy Russell Foundation to raise the \$500,000 needed to construct Everyone’s Playground, a barrier free, safe play space, specifically built to accommodate those with special needs, disabilities, and other cognitive challenges.

In his spare time, he enjoys spending time in Florida, golf, reading, creative writing, visiting antique stores, and listening to music. “I’m just an average guy who has had an extraordinary career and, along the way, collected a myriad of friends. I still shine my own shoes, clean the garage, vacuum my car, am a news junkie, and love resurrecting millions of memories while enjoying a martini or a glass of fine wine.”

Heinemann lives in Kratzerville with his wife Beverly. They have three daughters; Karen, Deborah, and Stacy; four grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

## Susquehanna Valley Community Education Project Board Directors – Presenters



**Dr. Jennifer Rager-Kay**  
ENT Surgeon

**Geisinger**

Dr. Jennifer Rager-Kay has been a practicing surgeon for nearly a decade and treats residents of the Susquehanna Valley community as an ears, nose, and throat surgeon at Geisinger Medical Center.

She is a graduate of Virginia College of Osteopathic Medicine and completed her residency training in Otolaryngology- Facial Plastic Surgery at the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey College of Osteopathic Medicine in 2013.

She was born and raised in western Pennsylvania. She received her bachelor's degree in Speech Pathology and Audiology from West Virginia University.

Dr. Rager-Kay has served on the Susquehanna Valley Community Education Project for four years.



**Henry M. Baylor Jr.**

Henry (Hank) Baylor is a native of Milton. He joined the Navy in 1966, served in Vietnam, and after four years of military service, joined Memorex Corporation in Santa Clara California as a field service engineer. Hank became the worldwide Vice President of Field Operations, which included three manufacturing operations located in Maastricht Holland, King of Prussia PA, and Dallas Texas. After 25 years with Memorex and diagnosed with multiple sclerosis, Hank retired and returned to his roots and settled in East Buffalo Township in 1995. He has degrees in history and political science and was an East Buffalo Township Supervisor for 18 years. He is Vice President of the William Cameron fire board, and a Central PA Ambassador for the American Red Cross, and member of the Lewisburg Sunset Rotary. Hank was an original organizer of the Lewisburg Area Recreation Authority and board member for eight years. He was one of the organizers of the Buffalo Valley Regional Police Department. His interests are singing (a tenor in the Buffalo Valley Singers), jazz, bass violin, blue water sailing, and believes it is his civic duty to give back to the community.



**Meghan K. Beck**  
President, Susquehanna Valley  
Community Education Project

Meghan graduated from Bucknell in 1998 with a degree in political science. She stayed in the local area after graduation, focusing on a career in the healthcare industry, with Rotech Medical and Susquehanna Valley Mobility Services, and growing her real estate business, 1337 Rentals. Through the growth of her real estate business, she transitioned to being a full-time entrepreneur in 2009. Over the past 13 years she has managed restaurant and bar businesses and partnered in the launch a retail business. She has also focused her time on working with community development organizations, such as Sunbury's Revitalization Inc and the Susquehanna Valley Community Education Project, a project with the intent of launching a community college for our region. She is a small business advocate and member of 1 Million Cups through the Bucknell Small Business Development Center, and is currently coordinating the development of a makerspace, STEAM Innovation Labs, opening soon in Sunbury, PA.



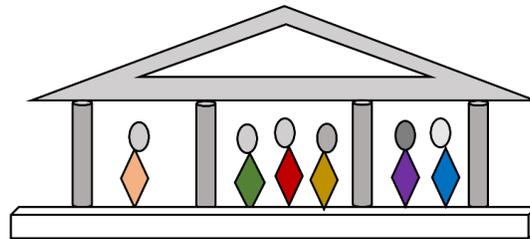
**DR. LENAIRE AHLUM**  
Founder, Executive Director,  
Susquehanna Valley Community  
Education Project

Dr. Ahlum has a passion for advancing the mission and work of community colleges. In 2007 she wrote “A Susquehanna Valley Community College: A Background Study Based on Secondary Research”, and founded the Susquehanna Valley Community Education Project, Inc., as a non-profit organization to facilitate the establishment of a new and independent community college in Pennsylvania to serve the counties in the Greater Susquehanna Valley.

Dr. Ahlum completed the Doctor of Management in Community College Policy and Administration at the University of Maryland Global Campus. Her dissertation “Establishing Community Colleges: Exploring Initiative Entities” conducted primary research into the ways and means by which community colleges have been established. Most recently, she incorporated “Community Colleges Moving US Forward, LLC” to promote community college opportunities to various stakeholders.

Her own public higher education began at a Pennsylvania community college while working full time. Thereafter, she transferred to the University of Maryland, completed a Bachelor of Science degree in Information Systems Management and earned her Master of Science degree in Business Education at Bloomsburg University. She celebrated her 42nd wedding anniversary with Tom and has three daughters and three grandchildren.

Thank YOU for joining us today  
and strengthening our community!



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