

## **Innovative Energy Solutions Study Advisory Committee Members**

### **Jerry Bellah, international vice president, IBEW 8th District**



Jerry Bellah is a veteran of the United States Army. He attended Central Michigan University, Grand Rapids Community College and holds a bachelor's degree in labor studies from the National Labor College. Bellah was initiated into the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) in 1990 at Local Union 876 in Michigan where he worked as a line apprentice, journeyman lineman and line foreman for several contractors.

Bellah relocated to Colorado and IBEW Local Union 667 in 1999, where he served as a union steward and worked as a lineman and line foreman for West Plains Energy, which is now Black Hills Energy. He was elected business manager of Local Union 667 four times where, starting in 2002, he served on several boards and committees including two apprenticeship committees on behalf of the Local. Bellah was appointed to the position of international representative on the 8th District staff in 2011 and to his current position of 8th District international vice president in March 2014. Bellah and his wife Ann have been married for 30 years. They have been residents of Pueblo since 1999 and have three children, Samantha, Nicole and Jace.

### **Sara Blackhurst, executive director, Action 22**



Since 2017, Sara Blackhurst has been the executive director for Action 22, a non-partisan membership organization of individuals, cities, counties and associations in a 22-county region of Southern Colorado focusing on government affairs, rural economic development, healthcare, education and agriculture/natural resources.

Prior to Action 22, Blackhurst was a development officer at El Pueblo Adolescent Treatment Community, and development director of Sangre de Cristo Hospice and Palliative Care. She also has experience as a campaign coordinator and was the executive director for the Green Valley Chamber of Commerce. Blackhurst earned her bachelor's degree in Business Administration from Adams State University.

### **Russell De Salvo, president and CEO, Pueblo Plex**



Russell DeSalvo is the president and CEO of PuebloPlex, the local redevelopment authority for the surplus property on the Pueblo Chemical Depot. DeSalvo has worked in the public sector for the U.S. Department of Labor and the Federal Reserve Bank. His private sector experience includes over 25 years of real estate development, construction, finance, property management and brokerage.

DeSalvo is a graduate of Colorado State University Pueblo and has served in leadership roles in many of his professional affiliations and community involvement activities. Currently, he remains very active in the community serving on many boards of directors and committees, including the Pueblo Innovative Energy Solutions Advisory Committee and the InBank Advisory Board.

DeSalvo was also recently appointed by Governor Jared Polis to the Colorado Chemical Demilitarization Citizens' Advisory Commission. He is fulfilling a vital role in representing and connecting the local community with the Army as they complete the mission of safely destroying the chemical weapons stockpile stored at the Pueblo Chemical Depot.

### **Patty Erjavec, president, Pueblo Community College**



Pueblo native Patty Erjavec has served as president of Pueblo Community College (PCC) since 2010 and is the school's first female president. Prior to PCC, she worked eleven years at El Pueblo, an adolescent treatment community, including the last nine as its president and CEO. Before working at El Pueblo, Erjavec was employed in a variety of positions with PCL Packaging, Inc., including six years as its general manager.

Erjavec served more than eight years on the State Board of Community Colleges and Occupational Education, two of those years as chairperson. She currently serves on the Pueblo Economic Development Corporation board of directors, St. John Neumann Catholic School Foundation board and the advisory boards for Pueblo Just Transition and the Pueblo Chemical Depot Restoration. She is a member of Rotary #43.

Erjavec completed her Ph.D. in education leadership (research and policy) at the University of Colorado, Colorado Springs. She holds a master's degree in nonprofit management from Regis University, where she graduated with Alpha Sigma Nu Honor Society honors, and a bachelor's degree in business administration, with an emphasis in accounting, from the University of Southern Colorado (now Colorado State University Pueblo).

#### **Corinne Koehler, LPL financial advisor, Koehler Wealth Management**



Corinne Koehler is a certified financial planner and owns Koehler Wealth Management, LLC, with over forty years' experience in financial services. She has been active in the Pueblo community for decades, including serving on the Pueblo City Council with two years as council president. She served on the boards and as president of the Pueblo Zoo, the Greater Pueblo Chamber of Commerce, Junior League of Pueblo, Historic Pueblo, Inc., Bessemer Historical Society (Steelworks Museum), and El Pueblo Boys and Girls Ranch.

Koehler currently serves as president of the Pueblo Conservancy District board which recently completed a \$24 million replacement of the 100-year-old levee through Pueblo. She helped organize Pueblo Friends of the Arkansas River which promotes and preserves the Arkansas River corridor in Pueblo. She's also serving as president of a new nonprofit with the mission to save, restore and reuse the historic 100-year-old Keating School located in the heart of Pueblo.

#### **Frances Koncilja, owner, Koncilja Energy Law and Policy**



Frances Koncilja grew up in Pueblo, Colorado, and attended Colorado State College (now Colorado State University). She graduated from the University of Colorado School of Law in 1972 and has practiced law in Colorado since — as a public defender, an assistant US attorney and an associate at several small firms. Koncilja was a founding member of the Colorado Women's Bar Association and was elected president of the Colorado Bar Association.

Governor Hickenlooper appointed Koncilja to the Colorado Public Utilities Commission (PUC). Upon leaving the PUC in 2020, she opened Koncilja Energy Law and Policy to act on climate change while preserving jobs and tax bases for communities supporting fossil fuel industries.

During her career, she was appointed to numerous commissions and boards, including the Colorado Supreme Court and Court of Appeals Nominating Commission, the Colorado Supreme Court Grievance Committee, the Committee on Discipline for the United States District Court and the American Bar Association Standing Committee on Judicial Selection, to name a few. Frances currently sits on Senator Bennet's and Hickenlooper's Federal Court Vacancy Advisory Committee.

#### **Dennis Maes, former judge**



Dennis Maes graduated with a bachelor's degree from Southern Colorado State College in 1967. In 1972, he earned his law degree from the University of Colorado School of Law and practiced law in Pueblo, Colorado, from August 1972 to April 1988. He served as district judge for the Tenth Judicial District from April 1988 to May 2012, and chief district judge from September 1995 to May 2012. Maes was also a member of the District 60 School Board from 2017 to 2021.

#### **Timothy Mottet, president, CSU Pueblo**



Dr. Timothy Mottet is the 15th president of Colorado State University Pueblo. He has co-authored four books and published more than 60 peer-reviewed journal articles and book chapters. His research examines the intersections of communication, personality and cognition and their application to instructional, organizational and interpersonal contexts.

In addition to serving on several local boards and commissions, Mottet serves on the board of directors for the American Association of State Colleges and Universities and the Colorado Ballet. Mottet holds degrees from William Jewell College (B.A.), Boston University (M.S.) and West Virginia University (Ed.D.). He and his spouse, Rick Gonzalez, enjoy volunteering at animal shelters, collecting art and exploring the French Quarter of New Orleans.

**Duane Nava, president and CEO, Greater Pueblo Chamber of Commerce**

A Pueblo native, Duane Nava joined the Greater Pueblo Chamber of Commerce in late 2021 as its president and CEO. His career started in public education, where he stayed for 17 years before accepting a position as the director of support services at Health Solutions, a nonprofit community medical and behavioral treatment provider, in early 2021.

Nava is a former board member of the Pueblo Economic Development Corporation (PEDCO) and Sangre De Cristo Arts and Conference Center. He is also actively involved in the Pueblo Football Officials Association. He earned his bachelor's degree in sociology from CSU-Pueblo, his master's degree in educational counseling from the University of Phoenix and his principal's license from then Adams State College. During his free time, Nava enjoys officiating high school football, attending sporting events, supporting Pueblo community events and spending time with his family.

**Jeff Shaw, president and CEO, PEDCO**

Jeff Shaw, a Pueblo native, has been involved with PEDCO since 1998. He was chairman of the board in 2008 and took over the role of vice president in February 2015 and president and CEO in 2016. Shaw earned a Bachelor of Arts from Colorado State University in economics, a Juris Doctorate from St. Mary's University School of Law and maintains an active law license. In his down time, he spends time with his wife and three boys.

**Chris Wiseman, former Pueblo County Commissioner**

Chris Wiseman was born and raised in Pueblo, Colorado. He started his career in 1997 as a community specialist for Governor Roy Romer. In 1998, he became the assistant general manager of the Colorado State Fair and in 2004, became the general manager for 11 years. In 2015, he was promoted to deputy commissioner of agriculture at the Colorado Department of Agriculture. Wiseman also served as Pueblo County Commissioner from 2019 to 2023.

He is married with seven children and ten grandchildren. He attended University of Southern Colorado (presently CSU Pueblo) and graduated in 1983 with a Bachelor of Science in sociology/criminal justice.