

## **SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES FOR MONDAY, APRIL 12, 2010**

### **SCOTT F. DENNISTON**

Scott Denniston is President and Chief Executive Officer of the Scott Group of Virginia, LLC. The Scott Group provides strategic business development services to small businesses in the Federal marketplace. Scott Group also facilitates partnerships and alliances between large and small businesses to compete on Federal contract opportunities as well as assist large businesses to establish world class subcontracting programs and identify potential small business subcontractors and partners.

Previously, Mr Denniston was the Director, Office of Small Business Programs and the Center for Veterans Enterprise at the Department of Veterans Affairs. During his tenure VA was a leader in awards to all categories of small businesses consistently spending over \$3 billion with small business. During his tenure, VA was consistently graded “green” by the Small Business Administration and the US House of Representatives Small Business Committee. Scott began his government career with the Customs Service. He also held numerous management positions with the Small Business Administration. He is also active in the National Contract Management Association (NCMA), the National Defense Industry Association (NDIA), and is past chair of the Small Business Committee of the Armed Forces Communications and Electronics Association (AFCEA).

Mr Denniston is a nationally recognized advocate for veteran entrepreneurs. In 1998 he was appointed to the Congressional Commission on Service Members and Veterans Transition Assistance, where he developed recommendations for enhancing and expanding support for veteran business owners. Many of those recommendations were incorporated into Public Law 106-50, the Veterans Entrepreneurship and Small Business Act of 1999, and Public Law 108-183, the Veterans Benefits Act of 2003. He established the Center for Veterans Enterprise, a VA organization dedicated to providing support to veterans interested in entrepreneurship.

In March 2005, Mr Denniston received the prestigious “Federal 100 Award” from Federal Computer Week for developing the VETBIZ website and the Vendor Information Pages data base of veteran owned small businesses. In June 2008, he received the “Leadership Award” from the Association for Federal Information Resources Management (AFFIRM), for his work on the GSA “VETS GWAC”. In October 2008, Scott received the “Leadership Award” from the Parren J. Mitchell Foundation for his years of support to the minority small business community. In October 2008, he also received the “Patriot Award” from the American Freedom Foundation for his efforts on behalf of veterans.

He was born in Somerville, New Jersey. He received a B.A. degree in Economics from Waynesburg College and a M.S. degree in Government from Southern Illinois University. He is also a veteran, having served in the US Army.

### **CONGRESSMAN PHIL HARE**

Congressman Phil Hare was born on February 21, 1949 in Galesburg, Illinois. He has lived his whole life in the 17th Congressional District. He graduated from Alleman High School and attended Blackhawk College in Moline. He learned the value of work ethic and dedication from his parents. Phil's mother worked for \$1.00 an hour at the New York Store to help make ends meet after the family lost their house. She was active in local politics and volunteered on John Kennedy's campaign for President. His father was a machinist and a proud member of his local union. Together, they raised 4 kids.

In 1969, Phil took his first job at the Seaford Clothing Factory in Rock Island. During the 13 years he cut lining for men's suits there, Phil served as a union leader and as the President of UNITE HERE Local 617. He also served six years in the U.S. Army Reserves. These experiences gave him the determination to always fight for working families and veterans.

Phil left his union position to work for Congressman Lane Evans in 1983. For nearly 24 years, Phil worked on behalf of his neighbors in the 17th District by serving as District Director. Whether it was helping constituents solve their problems, mediating labor disputes, or furthering Democratic principles, Phil has always sought to help the people of his district. In his spare time, Phil volunteered at a local hospice and coached youth basketball and football.

When his boss and good friend Lane Evans decided to retire in 2006, Phil was devastated. After discussing it with his wife (Beckie) and two children (Lou, Amy), he decided to run in Lane's stead. Phil knew that his candidacy was the best way to carry on the fight for working families and veterans.

Phil was elected to his second term in the U.S. House of Representatives on November 4, 2008. He serves on the Education and Labor and Transportation and Infrastructure Committees. He was appointed a Senior Whip to the House Democratic Leadership. He was also unanimously elected a Regional Whip for Region 4 which includes Illinois, Indiana, Missouri, Kansas, and Oklahoma. He is responsible for strategizing on legislation and getting Democratic Members to unify on important votes.

### **CONGRESSMAN BRUCE BRALEY**

Congressman Bruce Braley was born in Grinnell, Iowa, in 1957. He grew up in Brooklyn, Iowa, in Poweshiek County and graduated from BGM High School. In 1983, Bruce married Dubuque native Carolyn Kalb and moved to Waterloo, where Bruce and Carolyn still live today. Their three children—Lisa, David, and Paul—are attending college in Iowa.

Bruce Braley was first elected to the US House of Representatives on November 7<sup>th</sup>, 2006, and was reelected to a second term on November 4<sup>th</sup>, 2008.

Congressman Braley has established himself as an outspoken voice in Congress for the people of Iowa. The Des Moines Register has said Bruce "sets the standard for what Iowans should expect from their representatives. The Quad City Times said Braley is "a meticulous student of Congress and extraordinarily responsive to constituents."

Bruce learned the value of hard work from his parents. When he was young, Bruce's father Byard—a WWII Marine veteran—was severely injured at the grain elevator where he worked. Because of the accident, Bruce's mother had to drive over twenty-six thousand miles back and forth across Iowa to get her teaching degree so she could go back to work and help pay the bills. Marcia Braley still works as a substitute teacher in Brooklyn, Iowa.

Bruce applied for his first job when he was in third grade and has been working ever since. He's delivered newspapers, baled hay, detassled corn, worked at a grain elevator, and driven dump trucks. To help pay his way through college and law school, Bruce worked as a restaurant server and in highway maintenance, among other jobs.

Bruce attended the Iowa State University in Ames where he was awarded a B.A. in 1980. Bruce graduated from the University of Iowa School of Law in 1983.

After law school, Bruce worked in Waterloo as an attorney for 23 years, holding corporations accountable to their employees and consumers. Bruce has represented employees challenging dangerous company safety standards and has fought for people who lost their jobs and pensions.

Congressman Braley serves on the House Energy and Commerce Committee where he has made his mark expanding renewable energy to create jobs and working to reform health care to lower costs and save taxpayers money. Bruce has also gained a reputation as a fighter for our veterans, successfully lobbying the Pentagon to award full GI Bill education benefits to hundreds of Iowa National Guard soldiers denied them after returning home from Iraq because of an Army error.

Bruce has been a watchdog working to eliminate government waste and save taxpayers money. Bruce has also worked to simplify tax forms and other government documents to make them easier to understand, get disaster assistance to families hurt by floods and tornadoes, and set up three offices in Iowa exclusively to help constituents navigate problems with the federal government.

### **DR. PETER C. COLLINS**

Dr. Pete Collins, the new Director of Technology for the Quad Cities Manufacturing Laboratory (QCML), has experience on the development of programs which leverage state-of-the-art technologies for new applications. Collins has significant experience in the areas of titanium metallurgy, advanced processing, and physical metallurgy. From 1999-2009, he worked at The

Ohio State University. In his most recent position as Associate Director, he helped oversee a research group of 15 graduate students, 4 staff members, and 5 undergraduate students. The research efforts were largely focused on DoD applications, particularly Air Force and Navy applications. He joined QCML in July 2009, and is working with Dr. Sears to launch this entity to help Rock Island Arsenal and industrial partners to benefit the greater region. In addition to his knowledge of Ti-based alloys, he also brings experience using titanium powder in additive manufacturing technologies to QCML. He will be discussing how to leverage such opportunities and develop strategic partnerships within the region.

### **DAVID G. COMBE**

On January 5<sup>th</sup> 2005, David Glen Combe was appointed Director of Supply Chain Management for ATK's Advanced Propulsion and Space Systems Group. Mr. Combe is 47 years old, and a 5-year veteran of ATK. His years of experience at ATK source from key leadership roles in the company's Space, Mission and Armament Groups. Prior to moving to ATK, Mr. Combe spent 21 years with Parker Hannifin Aerospace, an Irvine, California based group and a Cleveland, Ohio based corporation. He began his career with the Parker Hannifin in 1984. While at Parker he served in various roles from Finance, IT, Business Operation, International Supply Chain as well as Domestic Supply Chain Director. He holds an undergraduate and a graduate degree business from Weber State University in Ogden, Utah.

### **KATHRYN L. RAMP**

Kathryn L. Ramp is the Supplier Diversity Manager for John Deere and is responsible for managing the Small Business program and supplier diversity initiatives for the company.

Kathy's experience at John Deere began 20 years ago as a manufacturing engineer at the John Deere Horicon Works in Wisconsin. In 1997, she relocated from the lawn tractor factory in Horicon to the combine factory in East Moline, Illinois. The move to East Moline brought Kathy back to the town where she grew up and graduated from high school.

Kathy's technical background led to roles as a supply management engineer and strategic sourcing specialist for electrical assemblies, operator station components, and hydraulic fluid conveyance. Three years ago she brought her extensive experience in supply management to John Deere's Supplier Diversity department. Kathy has a passion for connecting businesses to buyers by speaking on their behalf and highlighting their competitiveness. She challenges buyers to think creatively to find ways to incorporate small and diverse suppliers into John Deere's supply base.

Kathy is a member of NAPM-QC affiliate of Institute of Supply Management; The Conference Board: Supplier Diversity Leadership Council; Wisconsin Council of National Minority Supplier Development Council; Midwest SBLO; and is a founding member of Iowa/Illinois Regional Procurement Diversity Council.

Kathy holds a Bachelors of Science in Mechanical Engineering from University of Illinois, Champaign-Urbana and a MBA in Supply Chain Management from Arizona State.

### **DON HAASE**

Don is a Strategic Buyer and SBLO for Cobham Mission Systems (which is also known as Carleton Life Support & Sargent Fletcher.) Don has been with Cobham for 1 ½ years.

Don has BS in Industrial Engineering from Iowa State University. He has experience in Manufacturing Engineering, Procurement Management, and Quality.

Don Has worked in a variety of industries including time with Square D, Sauer Danfoss, Engineered Seal Products, Terex as well as Cobham.

Don holds the APICS certifications of CPIM and Certified Supply Chain Professional

### **SCOTT WARD**

As a Vice President for Russell Construction, with over 17 years of experience in construction, Scott Ward serves as the main point of contact during the preconstruction and construction phases of a project. Key responsibilities Scott assumes include resource allocation to ensure proper attention to each project, oversight of all estimating and project management tasks, and ensuring client satisfaction. Scott also serves as the Small Business Liaison for Russell Construction.

Scott has been with Russell for seven years and serves as the leader of the federal government procurement contracting team. Currently, Scott and his on-site team are completing a \$49.5 million dollar task order contract for the Department of Defense located at the Rock Island Arsenal. Additional government clients include the United States Army Corps of Engineers, Veteran's Administration, First Army and the Rock Island Arsenal Development Group. As a graduate of Iowa State University, Scott Ward holds a Bachelor's of Science degree in Construction Engineering.

### **DAVID HAHN**

David Hahn, Vice President of Corporate Development at SupplyCore Inc., has been working in inventory management and integrated supply chain for over ten years. With a Bachelor's degree in accounting and graduate work in international business, Mr. Hahn has built a foundation to support various organizational structures both domestically and internationally. Prior to joining SupplyCore, Mr. Hahn worked as a Project Manager with Thrall Distribution serving integrated supply customers throughout the country.

In 1998, Mr. Hahn joined SupplyCore as the Director of Project Management and Supplier Development, became the Director of Sales in 2001 and Vice President of Sales in 2003. With SupplyCore, Mr. Hahn has completed bid responses and overseen implementation of multiple international Defense Logistics Agency/Defense Supply Center Philadelphia/Defense Supply Center Columbus Prime Vendor contracts with a total value in excess of \$4,650,000,000. Mr. Hahn played a vital role in the bid response and implementation of the Fleet Automotive Support Initiative Global (FASI-G) program. The FASIG Program, administered by the DSCC, was created to provide superior logistics, supply chain management services, and to improve customer services in supporting the military's land-based vehicle fleets.

During the implementation of these Prime Vendor contacts, Mr. Hahn contributed to the management of operations in worldwide locations including Okinawa, Japan, Kuwait City, Kuwait, and Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. Over the past several years, Mr. Hahn has played an integral part in SupplyCore's shift in focusing entirely on government and military procurement and integrated logistics services. This shift has increased profitability for SupplyCore in both CONUS and OCONUS locations.

### **JUDITH ROUSSEL**

Judith Roussel has served as Illinois District Director of the SBA since December, 1999. In this capacity, she is responsible for the promotion and delivery of U.S. government programs providing Capital Access, Entrepreneurial Development, International Trade Development and Procurement Assistance to more than small businesses in the state of Illinois. Programs are delivered through SBA staffs in Chicago and Springfield, Illinois, as well as by major resource partners, including SCORE: Counselors to America's Small Business, and the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) Small Business Development Center Network.

For nearly a decade, Roussel served as Associate Administrator in business development and procurement policy-making positions at SBA's Headquarters in Washington, DC. She was responsible for development of programs and strategies to assure small businesses a fair share of the nearly \$400 Billion annual federal contracting budget. Chief among her accomplishments was the negotiation and implementation of a 3-year public/private partnership agreement with General Motors, Ford and Daimler Chrysler under which the three auto makers increased purchases from minority-owned businesses by more than \$3 Billion over the period of the agreement.

During her tenure in Washington, Roussel served as the SBA Senior Procurement Executive and was the 1999-2000 Co-Chairman of the National Contract Management Association (NCMA) Board of Advisors. She served as the U.S. Government's Representative to the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) Small Business Procurement Subcommittee and the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) SME Procurement Summit in Taipei, Taiwan. She served as an Expert Presenter before the United Nations World Trade Organization (WTO) in Geneva, Switzerland and co-authored a guidebook for developing nations on using public

procurement systems to develop a strong small business sector.

During her tenure with SBA, Roussel served in acting capacities as Associate Administrator for Field Operations from January through October, 2001 and as Regional Administrator for Region 5 from January, 2002 through November, 2003.

Following Hurricanes Katrina and Rita in 2005, SBA appointed Roussel to serve as *Senior Executive for Gulf Coast Recovery Contracting*. In that capacity, she worked with federal agencies, including FEMA and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and was instrumental in assuring the award of nearly \$4 Billion in recovery and reconstruction contracts to local small businesses in the four states impacted by the storms.

In 2003, Roussel was awarded the Presidential Rank Award of Meritorious Executive; and in April 2007, she was presented the Presidential Rank Award of Distinguished Executive, the highest level of recognition accorded a member of the U.S. Government's Career Senior Executive Service.

Roussel came to the SBA in 1991 with an extensive background as an entrepreneur and management and financial consultant providing accounting, export development, and financial advisory services to small and medium firms.

For four years, she served as Manager of Revenue Collections for the City of New Orleans. Her responsibilities included licensing and regulatory oversight affecting more than 40,000 businesses and collection of tax receipts in excess of \$350 million annually. Roussel received national acclaim for reforms she initiated, which increased collection of the city's tax revenues by more than \$22 million over a two year period.

Roussel holds a MBA from the University of Maryland is a native of New Orleans, LA.

### **VICKY MILLER**

Vicky has been a successful business owner and entrepreneur in the Quad City Region for over 25 years. For the last 4 ½ years she has been running the new IL Procurement Technical Assistance Center at Black Hawk College. The center helps business learn how to gain government contracts. She has been given a High Achievement Award each year from the State of Illinois each year since she has been running this new center at the college and received the Highest Achievement Award Designation in Illinois this year from the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO). She has advocated over \$432 million dollars in government contracts that created over 398 new jobs and retained over 3,908 jobs in her community.

She has written several books on Business Structures, E- Commerce for Business and Marketing Strategies for Business. She has taught classes on these same subjects for Black Hawk College

for the Small Business Development Center. She has helped mentor hundreds of businesses in this Region to start up a new businesses or execute successful expansion plans processes.

She has developed programs for Disaster Preparedness for Businesses and teaches these sessions for the SBDC and SBA programs. She hosted programs for a Homeland Security Disaster Planning Conference for Businesses for Natural and Man Made Disaster Preparedness in 2006.

She currently serves on the Board of Directors for:

The Moline Rotary, The Community Service Options Board for Rock Island, Henry and Mercer Counties, The NDIA Board, The CF Center of Hope and The Small Business Center & International Trade Center for Black Hawk College.

She is a Certified Business Specialist from the State of Illinois. She has been elected to be the President of the Moline Rotary and will take the session of chairs this year. She will be the fourth Woman in history to be the President of the Moline Rotary.

### **SUZANNE C. YACKLEY**

Chief of the Garrison Contracting Office, Rock Island Contracting Center, Rock Island, Illinois Ms. Yackley started her Federal Government Career as a Contracting Intern in 1985 with Army Material Command. She has worked in various offices within contracting at Rock Island. In her current position, she oversees contracting in support of the U.S. Army Garrison in the areas of Public Works, Information Technology and miscellaneous services.

She is certified in Contracting Level III, Program Management Level I and Life Cycle Logistics Level I. She is also an Army Acquisition Corps Member. In August 2005 she received the Army Material Command Commander's Award for Civilian Service in recognition of her efforts with the HMMWV Armor Kit Program; and in November 2007 she received the U.S. Army Garrison Manager's Commander's Award for Civilian Service to recognize her accomplishments in supporting the Installation Management Command. She has a Masters Degree in Business Administration from St. Ambrose University. She received a Certificate of Business Management from the Darden School of Business (University of Virginia), and completed the Leadership Development Program, Eckerd College.

### **JACKIE HIXSON**

Jackie Hixson is a Small Business Advisor with the TACOM Life Cycle Management Command at Rock Island Arsenal. She has been with the TACOM installation at Rock Island since its inception in 1994. For nine years Jackie was the Chair of the Army Materiel Command's Small Business Committee, she was a TACOM Acquisition Reform Advocate, and is Level III certified in Contracting. Jackie was the first Small Business Specialist to receive the Department of Army

- Small Business Specialist's Award and has received numerous awards during her Government career.

### **BETH WHITE**

Beth White has held the position of Small Business Specialist, supporting the small business program and initiatives of JMTC since January 4, 2010. Prior to this position, Ms. White worked in procurement as a contract specialist. She began her contracting career in 1998 for the Rock Island Corps of Engineers, mainly procuring services supporting the 3 lakes that this district manages, such as landscaping and fee collection. Ms. White then had the opportunity to work for the Rock Island Arsenal Joint Manufacturing and Technology Center (JMTC) as a specialist procuring numerous commercial products and services, supporting the manufacturing facility and its various missions. After working in this capacity for a few years and serving as the Contracting central point for the Shop Equipment Contact Maintenance (SECM) program at JMTC, she received a promotion and transferred to TACOM Rock Island.

Within TACOM, she procured spare parts for the towed Howitzers, as well as repair services, and eventually served as the senior contract specialist for the Industrial Base Operations (IBO) contracting branch that procured materials and components to support various Add on Armor kits being produced within the Industrial Base. Due to the BRAC, most recently Ms. White moved into a contracting position within the Army Contracting Command Rock Island Contracting Center, supporting the Southwest Asia Reachback division, which provided stateside contingency contracting support to areas within Kuwait, Iraq and Afghanistan. Ms. White earned her Bachelor's and Masters Degrees in Business Administration from St. Ambrose University. Ms. White is married with two children and resides in Bettendorf.

### **RODNEY WHITE**

From Davenport, Iowa, Rod graduated from Iowa State University and University of Iowa. He lived in northern Michigan and Montana before returning home to work 26 years as a general engineer at Rock Island Arsenal in industrial preparedness planning. Rod is now employed by Iowa State University Extension, Center for Industrial Research and Services (CIRAS) Procurement Technical Assistance Center (PTAC).