



The Workforce Connection Board and Chief Elected Officials
Serving Boone, Winnebago, and Stephenson Counties

Meeting Date: September 13, 2022

Time: 8:00 am to 10:00 am

Location: Riverfront Museum Park – Kresge Hall

RSVP to: ccornelius@theworkforceconnection.org or 815-395-6638

Mission Statement: To create a competitive, skilled and educated workforce by providing a system for individuals to gain meaningful employment in response to the needs of business.

AGENDA

1. **TWC Board Welcome** **Chair Frank Rotello**
 - Board Meeting Call to Order
 - Board Roll Call
2. **Chief Elected Officials Welcome** **Mayor McNamara**
 - CEO Meeting Call to Order
 - CEO Roll Call
3. **Approval of Meeting Minutes - TWC Board & CEO Action Item**
 - a) TWC Board Meeting Minutes – 06/07/2022
 - b) CEO Meeting Minutes – 06/07/2022
4. **New Slate of Officers/New Board Member Introduction**
5. **Guest Speaker – Keith Barnes, Vice President of Equity and Inclusion** **Karen Brown, Immediate Past Chair**
6. **Collaborating for the Future** **Frank Rotello/Courtney Geiger**
7. **Aligning for 2023 and Beyond** **Frank Rotello**
 - Group Discussion
8. **Closing Remarks** **Frank Rotello/Gina Caronna**
9. **Member Comments**
10. **Public Comment**
11. **Adjournment**

The Workforce Connection Board is an Equal Opportunity Employer/Program. A sign language interpreter, alternative format materials, or infrared assistive listening devices will be made available with 72-hour notice. Additional reasonable accommodations will be made available upon request.

In accordance with the Illinois Open Meeting Act, The Workforce Connection Board may enter into a meeting session closed to the public to discuss issues identified as appropriate for a closed session.

Welcome New Board Members



Michael Dunn, Executive Director
Region 1 Planning Council

As a Regional Planning Council representing over 700,000 residents in Northern Illinois, we function as this region's Federal Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), Federal Economic Development District (EDD), IGA-created Landbank, and Council of Governments (COG). We are proud of the successful planning, funding, and analytical work that has benefited our community and our local government partners. Our governance framework of regional elected and appointed leaders, in conjunction with our 30 staff members, continue to explore strategies to bring innovation and investment to our future built environment.



Jeff Fahrenwald, VP of Strategic Development & Education
SupplyCore Inc.

After a 35-year career in higher education, Jeff Fahrenwald, MBA, is professor emeritus of business management at Rockford University. He served for 15 years as the Director of the MBA program and 5 years as the Associate VP of Graduate and Community Education. He has also held leadership positions in numerous for profit and not-for-profit organizations and has consulted for and trainer for 100's or organizations, focusing his efforts on Leadership Development and Strategic Planning and Execution.

After retirement from university life, Jeff joined SupplyCore in 2017 as Vice President of Strategy Realization. In this role, Jeff is responsible for working with the entire senior leadership team to develop and guide the strategic direction of SupplyCore Affiliates.

In 2014, the Rockford Area Chamber of Commerce recognized Jeff, for his many contributions to his local community, as the 2014 Citizen of the Year. He also was recognized as a Person You Should Know, and received Crusader Community Health's Spirit of Caring Award. He has an MBA from Eastern Illinois University and additional post-graduate coursework from the University of Nebraska



George Gaulrapp, External Affairs Manager
ComEd, An Excelon Company

Senior Executive with over 25 years of experience. George offers a unique blend of business, financial, sales and local government experience. Expertise in management and sales, fiscal management, project management, staff development, relationship management, and business development.



Dr. Sheila Hill, President/CEO
Hill & Hill Enterprises, Inc.

Dr. Sheila Hill is a Rockford native passionate about entrepreneurial engagement, strategic planning, community engagement, and God's people.

She is currently the President of Hill and Hill Enterprises Inc. providing residential and commercial property management and maintenance services. She is the Co-Founder of Think Big Corporation, a non-profit entrepreneur accelerator center providing business development and resources for minority and women-owned businesses. Dr. Hill is also the Co-Pastor at the Park Church, where she helps people meet God and discover His purpose for their lives.

Dr. Hill has volunteered on various boards, including Crusader Clinic Board of Directors, Northern Illinois Minority Companies Association, Rockford Chamber of Commerce Minority Business Council, Bridge Ministries Executive Board, Rockford MELD, and the Washington Park Christian Church Executive Board. She has served in Nairobi, Kenya, as an international speaker and instructor, where she trained 5000+ entrepreneurs and leaders.

Dr. Hill was recognized by the Illinois Public Health Association and presented the Young Worker Award for developing an innovative program for grassroots community-based groups and the faith-based community, to work on violence prevention and health issues.

As a businesswoman with over 25+ years of experience, Dr. Hill's love for business drives her to mentor women in leadership, business, and personal development.



Dr. Brant Hulsebus, Owner
Hulsebus Rockford Chiropractic

Dr. Brant Hulsebus is a third-generation Chiropractor and Palmer graduate. He graduated in 2002 from Palmer College of Chiropractic with a BS and DC degree and joined the practice in 2002. He is a member of the International Chiropractor Association, a Fellow of the ICA, previously Legislative & Medicare Chairman, and currently the Illinois delegate, member, and past officer of the Illinois Prairie State Chiropractic Associate, Certified in the [Webster Technique](#).

Currently, Dr. Hulsebus is the Team Chiropractor for the Rockford IceHogs since 2004 and is a member of the Professional Hockey Chiropractic Society. His many awards include:

- 2021 winner of the Palmer College Bright Beacon Award
- 2022 winner of the ICA Legislative Leadership Award, proudly named the “Bob Hulsebus” award after his grandfather
- Previously Top 40 Leaders in Rockford under 40
- Best Chiropractor in Rockford 2009, 2010 by RRStar

Additional Degrees Held include:

- LCP Degree (Chiropractic Philosophy)
- CCWP Degree (Certified in [Wellness](#))

Locally, he is a founding member of Next Rockford, a member of Rockford Cosmopolitan Club, and serves the Rockford Academy. Dr. Hulsebus works with students, and it is not uncommon to see students with him. He goes to the local high schools to teach neurology and health. He hosts interns both on the undergraduate level and the Chiropractic Schools. Has been a speaker at various Illinois Prairie State Chiropractic, International Chiropractors and Pi house in Davenport and has helped to create a track to help Chiropractic students start at Rock Valley College, then enter Palmer College of Chiropractic.

Dr. Hulsebus became a Chiropractor to follow in his father’s and grandfather’s footsteps. Since growing up as the son and grandson of chiropractors, he heard many stories of success. It was these stories that inspired him to continue the legacy. Because of the success of the previous generations, today, the practice is run with time-proven methods.



Jim Knutson, Risk Manager & HR Director
Aircraft Gear Corporation

Jim Knutson has been the Risk Manager and Human Resources Director of Aircraft Gear Corporation in Rockford, Illinois, a manufacturer of components for the aviation and auto industries, since 1989. He is responsible for all corporate risk management, compensation, and benefit programs. Jim is a member of a

number of business groups working on health care payment reform, a member of the Winnebago County, Illinois Crime Commission, and a board member and immediate past chair of the Rockford Regional Health Council. He helped develop a health plan for smaller employers addressing cost and quality concerns. Jim received his bachelor's degree from Marquette University and his law degree from Northern Illinois University.

Jim has worked with the Winnebago County Sheriff's department to place graduates of the CNC machining program, has been on the State of Illinois Insurance Commission Working Group to revise the standard application for medical insurance, and is a member of the steering committee of The Illinois State Chamber of Commerce Health Council. He has testified before the joint state legislative committee on exchanges and presented before diverse groups including The Institute of Medicine, Captive Live conferences, and Robert Wood Johnson Foundation-sponsored events.



[Kris Machajewski, President & CEO](#)
[YWCA Literacy Council](#)

Accomplished, results-driven CEO leading a local association of the 16th largest nonprofit in the U.S. Consistent successes in streamlining operations that drive growth and efficiency while increasing accountability and internal controls. Highly regarded as a progressive collaborator, strategic thinker, and pivotal change agent with solid leadership, communication, and interpersonal skills to interact with and establish rapport with all levels of staff, management, legislators, and community leaders.



[Matt Montalbano, Senior Vice President-Branch Manager](#)
[RBC Wealth Management](#)

Our team provides wealth management strategies to families and corporate executives throughout the United States. We have a niche working with retail executives.

Our main goal is to build a long-lasting relationship with our clients through trust, integrity and meaningful communication. We offer portfolio management, asset allocation, stock options services, restricted stock strategies, deferred compensation and retirement plans. We view ourselves as multi-faceted wealth managers in reviewing all of our client's assets - whether directly held with us or not. We have the ability to create custom portfolios for clients. Our practice is primarily advisory-based.

I have passed the Series 7, 9, 10, 31, 63 and 65 securities exams. I hold an insurance and annuity license.

I have 25 years of experience, and our clients can benefit from having an advisor they can count on being around for a long time.



Jamie Proctor, General Manager
Americold Logistics, LLC

Jamie joins us from Americold where she spent the last 26 years, most recently as General Manager for the two Belvidere locations. Her most recent accomplishments include leading the development of a Women's Leadership Mentoring Program and established and led a global team to validate, define and launch the program for their Center of Excellence sites. Along with this, she has extensive experience leading employee development processes and programs, employee engagement, and community initiatives to continue building strong partner relationships across organizations.

Outside of work, Jamie spends her free time with her husband of 33 years, and their two daughters who are both nurses, and her 4-year-old grandson (with a granddaughter due in March).



Casey Schwebke, Operations Manager
Swebco Manufacturing Inc.
President of the Rock River Valley Tooling & Machining Association (RRVTMA)

Born and raised in Boone County. Casey attended the University of Wisconsin Stout and graduated with a bachelor's degree in Business Administration and a minor in Industrial Management. Casey is a third-generation owner of Swebco Manufacturing. Swebco began its journey in 1979 and has earned a solid reputation as a precision machine shop for a broad base of commercial and industrial manufacturers.

Casey became involved in the Rock River Valley Tooling and Machining Association and shortly after in 2010 he was asked to Join their board of directors where he became involved in their apprenticeship program

which is one of the largest Manufacturing apprenticeships in the US. Casey took over as President of the RRVMTA in 2021 and is continuing to push for training and apprenticeships in manufacturing.

In his off-time Casey enjoys spending time with his wife and three children and can often be found up north snowmobiling, playing hockey, or spending time with his family and friends.



Juan Tapia, VP of Human Resources
Berner Food & Beverage, LLC

A Human Resource executive with over 20 years of experience, Juan brings a wealth of knowledge to his new position with Berner Foods. Juan has experience with Private Equity and Food Manufacturing supporting multi-site organizations across North America and Latin America. Strong experience with public and privately held manufacturing organizations, private equity, business integrations, culture change, talent management (acquisition, development, and succession), organization design and restructuring, salary and bonus compensation programs, benefits design and cost management, safety, workers compensation, and employee relations practices in organized and union-free operations. Juan Holds a bachelor's degree from the University of Illinois (Chicago) and in his spare time he enjoys relaxing on the golf course.

Thank you for Serving

Fred Delarosa, Embassy Suites – since 2019
William Grennell, The Literacy Council – 2019
Jordan Priest, 617 Enterprises – 2016
Craig Steege, Rasmussen University – 2013
Mark Stefanic, SupplyCore, Inc. – 2004
Ed Wood, Berner Food & Beverage, LLC – 2019

*The Workforce Connection Board and Chief Elected Officials
thank you for your continued support.*

Thank you to our Sponsors!

