



## **2021 NLPES Virtual Professional Development Seminar Sept. 28-30, 2021**

### **Speaker Biographies**

#### **Shwanda Barnette**

Shwanda Barnette has worked for the Florida League of Cities since 2016. Prior to becoming a membership relations ambassador, she most recently served as the FLC University Training Specialist, focused on ethics, diversity and inclusion. She has served municipalities in some capacity for more than 15 years. She worked for District of Columbia government for five years. She received her J.D. from Georgetown University Law Center. She received her professional certificate in diversity and inclusion from Cornell University. She currently co-hosts a monthly live broadcast with Scott Paine entitled, #FLCitiesStrong, going beyond the daily headlines to feature stories of Florida's municipalities.

#### **Jon Courtney**

Jon Courtney is a deputy director with the New Mexico Legislative Finance Committee. He has worked for the State of New Mexico for more than a decade. Prior to this, he worked as a researcher for the federal government. He earned a doctorate in cognitive psychology at Texas Christian University. He currently is the NLPES immediate past chair.

#### **Kathy Davis**

Kathy Davis is a senior auditor with the Oregon Secretary of State Audits Division. She has worked for the Audits Division for more than nine years and serves as a data analytics team lead. She has worked on multiple financial and performance audits, including audits of improper payments in the Medicaid program and an in-depth look at the opioid crisis through an audit of the prescription drug monitoring program.

#### **Kristine Goodwin**

Kristine Goodwin directs NCSL's Center for Results-Driven Governing, a new NCSL resource that aims to strengthen the use of evidence to inform state budget and policy decisions. Prior to taking on this role, Kristine contracted with national and state policy organizations to research evidence-based state policy approaches for improving maternal and child health, reducing substance use disorders, strengthening Medicaid, and promoting employment opportunities. She previously managed NCSL's maternal and child health project. She authored "ABCs of Evidence-Informed Policymaking" in 2020.

**Ian Green**

Ian Green has been with the Oregon Secretary of State Audits Division for more than 10 years and serves as data analytics audit manager. He routinely conducts training in fraud prevention and detection. He has also conducted economic research, statistics instruction, independent consulting, and compliance auditing before joining the Audits Division. He holds a master's degree in economics, and CGAP, CFE, and CISA certifications.

**Nick Kittle**

Nick Kittle is the author of the best-selling government innovation book "Sustainovation: Building Sustainable Innovation in Government, One Wildly Creative Idea at a Time." He spent 15 years working in local government, most recently as a chief innovation officer. He has won three national innovation awards and founded one of the first five government innovation offices in the country.

**Rohit Naimpally**

Rohit Naimpally is a senior research and policy manager at the North America Office of the Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab (J-PAL) at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). He leads J-PAL's work with state and local government partners in the United States.

**Scott Paine**

Scott Paine is the director of leadership development and education at the Florida League of Cities. He combines the perspectives of an academic (with a career in higher education spanning three decades), elected official (eight years as a city councilman) and parent (10 children and seven grandchildren). In his position with the Florida League of Cities, he provides workshops on personal and organization leadership, racial equity, ethics and communication. He has a Ph.D. from Syracuse University.

**Kathy Patterson**

Kathleen (Kathy) Patterson was confirmed as the D.C. Auditor in 2014. She came to the Office of the D.C. Auditor after working for nearly eight years for The Pew Charitable Trusts. She is a former 3-term D.C. Councilmember, a former newspaper reporter including serving as a Washington correspondent for the Kansas City Star, and former communications director for the American Public Welfare Association. She holds a bachelor's degree in journalism from Northwestern University and a master's in English from Georgetown University.

**Jon Schwabish**

Jon Schwabish is an economist and senior fellow in The Urban Institute's Income and Benefits Policy Center. He helps nonprofits, research institutions and governments at all levels improve how they communicate their work and findings. His most recent book is "Better Data Visualizations: A Guide for Scholars, Researchers, and Wonks."

**Curt Stedron**

Curt Stedron is the director of legislative training at the National Conference of State Legislatures. He has worked at NCSL for three years. Prior to joining NCSL, he worked for Littleton Public Schools for 21 years. He received his master's degree in education from the University of Illinois, Chicago.

**Justin Stowe**

Justin Stow is the Kansas Legislative Post Auditor. He has a bachelor's degree in political science and a master's degree in public administration. He has worked in performance auditing for more than 14 years but has been passionate about good writing most of his life.