

# CHOOSING TRANSPORTATION

## SPEAKER BIO *#ChoosingTransportation20*

**Dan Pallme** is the Assistant Chief of Freight and Logistics at the Tennessee Department of Transportation. In his role, he provides leadership on issues of rail, water and highway freight. The division serves as a liaison between TDOT and freight stakeholders in an effort to find opportunities to improve access for existing freight and appropriately prepare for the projected increases in freight as it moves in and out of the state. The primary focus areas for the division include water, short-line railroads, Section 130 rail program, rail inspection, highway freight and technology, freight advisory committees, freight planning and the freight and state rail plan updates.

He spent his entire career focused in the transportation sector. He is truly multi-modal with his 30 plus year career spanning several modes. He has worked for Federal Express (air), Yellow Freight System (LTL), Union Pacific Railroad (rail), and Comtrak Logistics (Intermodal / Truckload). After his private sector experience, he spent 5 years at the Intermodal Freight Transportation Institute at the University of Memphis on various research projects relating to freight issues throughout the United States.

He received his Bachelors from the University of Memphis in transportation and a Masters from the University of Denver in Intermodal Transportation Management.



**Dan E. Pallme**

Assistant Chief of Freight and Logistics,  
Tennessee Department of Transportation



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**Shannon A. Brown** is the Senior Vice President of Eastern Division U.S. Operations and Chief Diversity Officer at FedEx Express, the world's largest express transportation company. In this role, Shannon is responsible for station, hub and ramp operations in the eastern U.S. region. As Chief Diversity Officer, his work includes maintaining an effective diversity and inclusion environment where every team member is valued and has an equal opportunity to succeed.

He began his career at FedEx in 1978 as a package handler at the Memphis World Hub. As he advanced in his career, he continued to demonstrate exceptional leadership qualities and a strong commitment to service. His executive achievements also include serving as Senior Vice President and Chief HR/Diversity Officer at FedEx Express and as Senior Vice President of HR at FedEx Ground. He has attained many honors, including multiple FedEx Five Star Awards and the CEO Five Star Award.

Shannon currently serves as a director of BancorpSouth, Inc., a financial holding company. Additionally, he was appointed by former Tennessee Governor Bill Haslam to the Advisory Board of Western Governors University.

His professional and civic leadership achievements have brought him to the forefront of media attention. **He has been named to Black Enterprise magazine's lists of "100 Most Powerful Executives in Corporate America" and "Top Executives in Corporate Diversity," as well as Savoy magazine's "Top 100 Most Influential Executives in Corporate America."**

Shannon's educational background includes a bachelor's degree from National-Louis University in Chicago and a master's degree from the University of Denver.

### Shannon A. Brown

Senior Vice President of Eastern Division U.S. Operations  
and Chief Diversity Officer, FedEx Express



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**Lauren** joined the team at Smith Seckman Reid, Inc. (SSR, Inc.) as a Structural Engineer EI after a spring internship at SSR and CBU graduation in 2015. Lauren has received many honors, including the 2014 ASCE TN Section Student Member of the Year, 2014-2015 CBU Lasallian Fellow, 2015 Outstanding Civil and Environmental Engineering (CEE) Graduate, 2015 Featured CEE Student, 2015 CBU Presidential Recognition Award, and 2018 Society of Women Engineers Featured Engineer. Lauren also currently serves as a board member for the CBU School of Engineering Advisory Board and T-STEM Academy, and serves as the board Vice President for Page Robbins Adult Day Center. Lauren currently serves as the Professional Development Chair for the Society of Women Engineers Memphis Professional Section and a catechist at St. Peter Catholic Church. Lauren's family includes her husband of 3 years, Adam, and daughter, Ella Cate (1.5) and has called Memphis home for the past 5 years.

**Lauren Harrett Thornton**

Civil EIT, Smith Seckman Reid, Inc.



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**Dr. Glenda D. Collins** is most excited about utilizing her engineering background and education expertise to optimize people and learning in organizations. She currently serves as the Director of Workforce Programs and Partnerships at Southwest TN Community College. Across her variety of experiences in higher education, Dr. Collins efforts center around the role of university-industry partnerships in shaping student career expectations and pathways, the student to workforce continuum, broadening participation in STEM, and continuous improvement in higher education.

Dr. Collins completed her doctoral work at Virginia Tech in the Department of Engineering Education. She is a graduate of Mississippi State University with a Bachelor of Science in Industrial Engineering and Auburn University with a Master of Industrial and Systems Engineering degree.

She is a Gates Millennium Scholar Alumni and an active member of the Memphis Chapter of the National Society of Black Engineers and the American Society for Engineering Education. In addition to her professional activities, Glenda enjoys cheering for Mississippi State sports, uncovering new eateries in Memphis, and participating in church ministry.

**Dr. Glenda D. Collins**

Director of Workforce Programs & Partnerships,  
Southwest TN Community College



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**Dr. Luu** is a licensed psychologist and currently serves as the Associate Director/ Training Director of Internship and Practicum programs at the University of Memphis Student Health and Counseling Services. Her scholarly interests include social justice advocacy and multicultural competency in clinical supervision, racial and gender issues, and issues related to Asian American mental health. Currently serving on editorial boards of the Journal of College Counseling and the Asian American Journal of Psychology, Dr. Luu has been recognized by the American Psychological Association - Society of Counseling Psychology and Society for the Psychology of Women for her scholarly work and her services.

**Lihn Luu**

Associate Director Student Health and Counseling Services,  
University of Memphis



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**Angela Parsley** is the STEM Coordinator for the Virginia Department of Transportation. She works with students and teachers to provide engaging STEM curriculum and activities that will inspire the next generation of transportation professionals. Angela is a licensed teacher with a Technology Education endorsement who has taught in middle and high school.

She also holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Industrial & Systems Engineering from Virginia Tech and worked as an industrial engineer in various manufacturing industries including shipbuilding, electronics, & pharmaceuticals. She enjoys sharing her industry experience and love of STEM with students and believes ***it only takes one positive experience or piece of encouragement to set someone on a path to greater career success.*** She thanks the teachers and professionals who encouraged her to seek a non-traditional career path.



**Angela Parsley**

STEM Coordinator, Virginia Department of Transportation



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**D. Kimbrough Oller** (Ph.D., Psycholinguistics, University of Texas, 1971) is Professor and Plough Chair of Excellence, University of Memphis, External Faculty Member, Konrad Lorenz Institute for Evolution and Cognition Research, Klosterneuburg, Austria, affiliate of the Institute for Intelligent Systems, University of Memphis, and member of the Scientific Advisory Board, LENA, Boulder, CO. In 2013 he received ASHA Honors. In over 200 articles and books his work addresses infant vocalizations, autism, speech production, multilingualism, and language evolution.

**D. Kimbrough Oller**

Professor and Plough Chair of Excellence, School of  
Communication Sciences and Disorders, University of Memphis



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**Dr. Stephanie Ivey** is the Associate Dean for Research with the Herff College of Engineering and a Professor with the Department of Civil Engineering at the University of Memphis. She directs the U of M's Southeast Transportation Workforce Center and the West TN STEM Hub. Her technical research includes focus on journey to school in urban areas, transportation planning (particularly related to freight impacts), livability assessment in urban communities, and strategies to engage citizens in the transportation planning process. She has a strong record of STEM workforce and education research, with special emphasis on transportation workforce development, partnerships between industry and academia, and increasing representation of women and underrepresented minorities in STEM.

Ivey is a member of the Executive Committee of the Institute of Transportation Engineers Diversity and Inclusion Committee- STEM Sub Committee, the American Society of Civil Engineers National Engineers Week/Discover-E Task Committee and the TRB Standing committee on Maintenance and Operations Personnel. She also serves on the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis Transportation Industry Council, the TennSMART board and the Board of Directors for the Greater Memphis IT Council.

**Dr. Stephanie Ivey**

Director, Southeast Transportation Workforce Center



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**Eddie Fuchs** is currently the Director of Logistics Operations for the Intermodal Division at Dunavant Logistics Group. With 12+ years of experience in the industry, he has hands on experience in intermodal container drayage, driver management, depot operations, business development, recruiting, and intermodal brokerage.

A portrait of Eddie Fuchs, a man with light brown hair and a slight smile, wearing a dark suit, white shirt, and a striped tie. The background is a warm, textured brown.

**Eddie Fuchs**

Director, Logistics Operations, IMM, Dunavant  
Logistics Group, LLC



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In February 2010, **Pam Kordenbrock** became the Division Administrator for the Federal Highway Administration's (FHWA) Tennessee Division. In this capacity she leads a multi-disciplinary staff of 22 that is responsible for a \$900 million federal-aid program and provides policy guidance to FHWA's State, local and other federal partners.

A 26 year veteran of Federal Service, Pam has also worked in FHWA offices in Santa Fe, New Mexico; Washington, DC; San Francisco and Los Angeles, California; Baltimore, MD and Chicago, IL. She has a Bachelor's degree and a Master's degree in Civil Engineering from the University of Virginia. Pam is also the proud Dog Mom to two rescue pups named Guinness and Becks.



**Pamela Kordenbrock**

Division Administrator - Tennessee, Federal Highway Administration



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**Hunter Purnell** is an experienced Director Of Information Technology with a demonstrated history of working in the transportation/trucking/railroad industry. He is skilled in Data Center, Management, Software Documentation, Risk Management, and Mobile Payments. He has a strong information technology background with an undergraduate degree from the University of Memphis and a Master of Science (MS) focused in Electrical and Electronics Engineering from The Johns Hopkins University.

**Hunter Purnell**  
Director IT, IMC Companies, Inc.



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**Dewayne Swindall** began his railroad career as a Conductor in Birmingham, Alabama with Norfolk Southern (NS) in the 90's assuming his first Trainmaster role at Norris Yard in 1999 being one of the rare, in place promotions, within Norfolk Southern at that time. During this role, Swindall was one of the initial Remote Control Operator instructors when remote locomotive use was introduced in the hump classification process. In 2004, as Sr. Trainmaster in Chicago, IL, Swindall accepted a position with a competitor railroad, Canadian National (CN), in Jackson Mississippi, ultimately moving into a more progressive role in Geismar, LA the following year. In 2005, Swindall was promoted to Assistant Superintendent in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada overseeing hump classification at Walker Yard. In 2007, he was sent to Southern Ontario as the Assistant Superintendent of the Southern Ontario Division.

In the summer of 2008, Swindall was recruited to Genesee & Wyoming, one of the largest regional and short line operators, ultimately holding the position of Senior Vice President of the Central, covering thirteen states and seventeen individual railroad operations.

In January 2018, Swindall returned to CN in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada as Superintendent in the Network Operations Centre, subsequently assuming the Superintendent role of the Midsouth Division a few months later in Memphis, TN. In September 2018, Swindall was promoted to his current position of General Manager Gulf Region covering the original Illinois Central properties from Gilman, IL to the Gulf of Mexico.

**Dewayne Swindall**  
General Manager, Gulf Region, CN



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**Gary Rosenfeld** is the Chief Executive Officer of the Memphis Area Transit Authority (MATA). MATA provides bus, rail, paratransit and other transit services for the Greater Memphis area. Rosenfeld's main focus is to rebuild the transit system into a world class mass transit provider while implementing new transit innovations and restarting the vintage trolley car system.

Rosenfeld has more than 30 years of experience in transit as an executive, strategist and advisor. His most recent experience includes serving as Interim Chief Executive Officer and Chief Administrative Officer at MATA. Prior to joining MATA, he was responsible for the nationally recognized transportation programs at Yosemite National Park.

Some of his major accomplishments during his tenure there include having the first 100 percent diesel electric hybrid transit fleet in the nation, receiving an environmental achievement award from the United States Department of the Interior for reduction in the consumption of petroleum fuel, having 100 percent of the Park's motor coach fleet and transit fleet meeting ADA requirements and proposed passenger safety requirements, and ensuring that the Park's Passenger Transportation Program became 100 percent certified as clean diesel and clean idle. Prior to joining Yosemite National Park, Rosenfeld also was employed 17 years at Laidlaw Transit Services. While there, he served in the role of Director of Operations and was responsible for more than 2,000 associates under seven General Managers providing public transit, school and charter transportation to 21 transit agencies, school districts, county offices and governing boards. Rosenfeld studied Business Administration at California State University, Northridge and is currently completing work in Public Administration at Southern New Hampshire University.

**Gary Rosenfeld**  
CEO, Memphis Area Transit Authority



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A portrait of Victoria McDaniel, a woman with blonde hair, smiling, wearing a teal shirt, positioned on the left side of the graphic.

**Victoria McDaniel** is a Client and Talent Solutions Associate at Vaco Memphis. She serves as a matchmaker for Logistics and Supply Chain professionals in the Mid-South and across the nation. Victoria's clients know the market is tight for smart, qualified, and driven professionals and they come to her to shorten the lead time of finding the most exceptional industry-leading talent. She has a natural ability to assess her client's needs and match them with the right individual skills. She most recently served as a Logistics Manager at ReTrans, a 3rd party logistics company. While there she led a full team of logistics operations, including planning, warehousing, monitoring customer deliveries, and freight payments across all transportation modes. Outside the office she is a proud mom and wife who enjoys all the new and exciting things Memphis has to offer while still rooting on her Alma Mater – Go Vols! She earned a Bachelor of Science in Logistics from the University of Tennessee at Knoxville before returning back home to the Memphis area.

**Victoria McDaniel**

Associate, Logistics Client & Talent Solutions, Vaco



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