

## SPEAKER BIOS



### Dan E. Pallme

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 and the freight and state rail plan updates. In April of 2021, he was additionally named Interim Multimodal Transportation Resource Division Director which handles DOT responsibility with all transit in all 95 counties in Tennessee, as well as, bicycle and pedestrian state programs. In October of 2022; Local Programs office reports to Dan. They assist local governments with assisting state and federal aid projects such as roadway resurfacing, greenways, signalization of intersections, and bridge replacements.

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 / Hub Group Trucking (Intermodal / Truckload). After his private sector experience, he spent 5 years at the Intermodal Freight Transportation Institute at the University of Memphis on various projects relating to freight issues.

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



### Stephanie Ivey

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 is Associate Director of the Division of Transportation and Logistics in the Center for Applied Earth Sciences and Engineering Research. Her research includes livability assessment in urban communities, transportation operations, and strategies to engage citizens in the transportation planning process. She also has a strong record of STEM workforce and education research, with special emphasis on transportation workforce development (particularly in TSMO/ITS), partnerships between industry and academia, and increasing representation of women and underrepresented minorities in transportation.

Ivey is a member of the Institute of Transportation Engineers Diversity and Inclusion Committee- STEM Sub 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 and the Board of Directors for the Greater Memphis IT Council.

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### Brian Bellan

Brian Bellan is the Manager of Strategic Operations for the Georgia Ports Authority, where he is responsible for managing rail freight to and from GPA's inland markets. Since joining GPA, Brian supports the Mid-American Arc initiative, as well as the commercial team with creative intermodal solutions for new and existing customers. Prior to joining GPA, Brian worked with Consolidated Chassis Management in the Memphis, Nashville, and Huntsville markets. Brian started his career in the intermodal industry with CSX Intermodal Terminals, operating facilities throughout the CSX network. He holds a Bachelor's Degree from the University of Alabama and lives in Memphis with his wife and two children.



### Donna England

Donna England is currently employed at the Tennessee Trucking Association. She began working with the Association in 2015, as the Membership coordinator. In December 2019 she was promoted to the VP of Safety and Member Services and in January 2022 was promoted to the President and CEO. Prior to the Association she spent 21 years working for R. E. West Transportation in Ashland City, TN doing various duties such as, Safety, HR and Recruiting. Donna has a passion for trucking and even holds a Class A CDL. Donna was certified by the State of TN for 21 years as a Commercial Driver's License Third Party Tester Examiner. Donna was certified in 2009 from NATMI as a Director of Safety and continues to hold that certification. Donna has always been actively involved with the Tennessee Trucking Association, in 2013 she served as the Chair for the Truck Driving Championships, the Chair for the TN Safety management Council and the Chair for the TN State Steering Committee. In 2011 Donna received the Hugh Galbreath Safety Professional of the Year Award presented by the Tennessee Trucking Association. Donna England is a member of the Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance, the American Trucking Associations, and Women in Trucking. When she is not working, she loves to read, hunt and ride motorcycles.



### Andrew Gillespie

Andy has over 30 years of experience in the electrification industry. Andy has designed, built, and maintained electrification systems across North America. This includes the planning, developing, and managing electrification systems for Rail, Transit, and Bus applications. Andy brings a diverse background of skills covering nearly all aspects of project and program management related to electrification systems, including planning, environmental assessment, engineering, construction, and operations and maintenance. Andy joined Gannet Fleming in 2015 to lead the \$CAN 2.3B electrification program for Metrolinx in Toronto, Ontario. Andy is now a Senior Vice President who leads Gannet Flemings E-Mobility Practice and their Client and Program Development Director for the Transit and Rail Business Group across Canada and the eastern United States. Before joining Gannett Fleming, Andy worked for the Southeastern Pennsylvania Transit Authority (SEPTA), where he held several positions, including the Chief Engineering Officer of Traction Power and, finally, the Chief Engineer of Engineering, Maintenance, and Construction. While at SEPTA, Andy led several innovative projects, including the Wayside Energy Storage for Microgrid Participation Program, the Restoration of the Trackless Trolley (Electric Bus) System in North Philadelphia, SEPTA's Battery Bus Pilot Program, piloted the use of ESCo Contracting, and the developed SEPTA's CHP power program. Andy holds a BSCE from Northeastern University. He is a registered Profession Engineer (PE) in eight states in the USA and a registered Professional Engineer (PEng) in Ontario, Canada.

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### Rick Seawright

Rick started his career in transportation with Averitt Express 1984 and worked in many areas to include driver, route sales, accident review and load planning. He began his career with IMC companies in 2003 working with Safety Management, Driver Hiring, and then serving as Log Book Auditor and Maintenance Director. He started IMC/ RCCL truck maintenance division in 2007 bringing in house all truck M&R. Rick was the 2016-2017 Chairman of the Tennessee Trucking Association Safety and Maintenance council.



### Donald Grayer

Donald S. Grayer is an IT Business Analyst for IMC Companies with 8 years of invaluable experience in project management. In addition, he is a 2014 graduate of IMC Companies - Management Training Program. Donald specializes in problem solving, root cause analysis, and achieving specific goals. A strong believer in effective communication, Donald regularly drafts how-to training material for colleagues to self-educate on core business applications to remain effective and efficient. Outside of work, Donald participates in mentoring youth of Memphis and facilitating STEM activities in robotics.



### Geoff Douglass

Geoff has spent the last 15 years developing novel unmanned maritime craft for customers around the globe. To date he has commissioned over 40 unique unmanned systems for multiple mission sets. Geoff co-founded Mythos AI in 2020 with the goal of leveraging robotics to enable sustainable shipping.



### Evan Drumwright

Evan Drumwright is CEO of Dextrous Robotics. Prior to that, he was a Senior Research Scientist at Toyota Research Institute. Evan has held faculty positions at GWU and the University of Memphis. His work has been funded by the National Science Foundation, NASA, the US Army Research Office, Hewlett Packard, and Willow Garage. He's authored over forty peer-reviewed publications. Evan received his Ph.D. in robotics from the University of Southern California (2007) and B.S. degrees in Computer Science and Mathematics from the University of Memphis.

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### Lisa Jones

Lisa Jones is currently a technologies instructor for Southwest Tennessee Community College's (Southwest) Workforce Solutions Center. There she develops and delivers customized technical training for local industry partners. Workforce training includes mechatronics, troubleshooting, and electrical systems taught at local employers' sites to upskill their current workforce. She is a Manufacturing Skill Standards Council (MSSC) Certified Production Technician (CPT) 4.0 certified instructor in safety, quality, manufacturing processes, and maintenance awareness. She is currently developing accelerated skills programs to prepare students for quick entry into advanced manufacturing employment. She enjoys working with the Mid-South's diverse student population that includes the traditional and non-traditional college students and the many cultural and ethnic groups living in the region. She finds it rewarding watching them learn the skills and knowledge needed to transform their lives with a new career in advanced manufacturing and technology.

Prior to her experience in Workforce, she was a faculty member in Engineering Technologies at Southwest teaching electrical and computer engineering technology courses. She found that the prior design and development experience she gained at Bell Labs and Thomson Consumer Electronics (RCA) enabled her to bring real world experiences and expectations into the classroom. Ms. Jones earned her Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering (BSEE) from Memphis State University (now known as the University of Memphis) and her Master of Science in Electrical Engineering (MSEE) from Georgia Institute of Technology (Georgia Tech).



### Steven Schwartzberg

Steven Schwartzberg is a Manager for Operations, Technology, and Innovation at FedEx, and a founding member of the FedEx Robotics Center of Excellence. While exploring areas for robotics to aid operations across FedEx locations, Steven has also worked to help the robotics and startup ecosystem develop solutions that can be more immediately useful for logistics firms worldwide. Prior to focusing on robotics, Steven has held strategy roles at Bain & Company, American Express, and FedEx, and hopes to continue bringing more innovation to help Memphis and the local ecosystem thrive.

A father of four girls, Steven has an Economics Degree from Harvard University and an MBA from the University of North Carolina.

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## Ken Sills

Ken Sills is the CTO and co-founder of Preteckt, a Memphis-based technology startup that uses machine learning to predict maintenance issues in vehicles weeks before they cause downtime. Since developing the initial prototype of this hardware/software solution in 2015, Ken has been focused on building Preteckt's team of engineers, scientists, business developers, and sales professionals so that the transportation industry can benefit from Vehicle Prognostics as a Service.

Ken has over two decades of R&D experience creating solutions that couple hardware, software, and data science. His diverse background often provides an outsider's perspective on problems, allowing him to craft solutions that apply tool sets from many seemingly independent fields of research. Skills honed in Computational Astrophysics that provide a unique advantage in Machine Vision. Skills honed in Continuous Emission Tomography that allow for improved Data Visualization in the trucking industry. Teaching skills developed as a Professor of Physics that map directly onto the role of chief product evangelist.

Ken's work has been published in books and in peer-reviewed journals, and hardware and software that he has developed is deployed around the world.



## Joseph Fister

Joseph Fister is Superintendent of the Delta Zone for CN. Joe joined CN in 2017 as Transportation Manager in Waterloo and was then promoted to Assistant Superintendent. Prior to joining CN, he was at CSX Corporation, where he held several leadership roles, including Senior Trainmaster, Chief Dispatcher and Director of Train Operations. Joseph's leadership skills are complemented by his roles in the US Armed Forces, where he worked as an air traffic controller, a facility chief and a shift leader. Joe holds a Master's degree in Management and a Bachelor of Science degree in Operational and Security Management from the University of Phoenix. He is currently completing a doctoral degree in Management from Walden University.

