

# SPEAKER AND PANELIST BIOGRAPHIES

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## GENERAL SESSION

**Bracken Hendricks** is a Senior Fellow at the Center for American Progress. He works at the interface of global warming solutions and economic development. Mr. Hendricks is a longtime leader in promoting policies that create green jobs, sustainable infrastructure, and investment in cities.

Mr. Hendricks served as an advisor to the campaign and transition team of President Barack Obama, and was an architect of clean-energy portions of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. He also served in the Clinton administration as Special Assistant to the Office of Vice President Al Gore, with the Department of Commerce's National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and with the President's Council on Sustainable Development. He was the founding Executive Director of the Apollo Alliance for good jobs and energy independence, and has served as an energy and economic advisor to the AFL-CIO, Pennsylvania Governor Ed Rendell's Energy Advisory Task Force, and numerous other federal, state, and local policymakers and elected officials.

Hendricks' publications include the book *Apollo's Fire: Igniting America's Clean Energy Economy*, which he co-authored with U.S. Congressman Jay Inslee (D-WA).

**Martin G. Knott, Jr.** is President and CEO of Knott Mechanical Inc, a commercial HVAC service focused on installation and retrofit. He also is the COO of Nox Technologies and the co-founder and Vice President of Wye River Technologies.

Mr. Knott serves on boards of trustees for a number of community and philanthropic organizations, including the Harriet Lane Home Foundation, Xavier University President's Advisory Council for the College of Social Sciences, Baltimore Outward Bound and the Signal 13 Foundation. He is Vice Chair of the Maryland Economic Development Corporation and is a commissioner for the Baltimore City Department of Recreation and Parks. Mr. Knott is very active with the Marion I. & Henry J. Knott Foundation. He is a member of the Governor's Workforce Investment Board.

Mr. Knott graduated from Xavier University in 1994 where he earned a Bachelors Degree in Business Administration.

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**Peter Lowenthal** is director of the Renewable Energy and Clean Technology Practice Group at 360JMG, an integrated marketing and communications firm. A leader in the renewable energy industry for 30 years, he has served as the Executive Director of the MD-DC-VA Solar Energy Industries Association since 2003. Mr. Lowenthal moved to work at the national Solar Energy Industries Association, where he served as Director of International Programs and prior to that as Director of the Solar Building Products Division. Mr. Lowenthal represented the solar industry in the U.S. Export Council for Energy Efficiency and the U.S. Export Council for Renewable Energy from 1997 to 2003, promoting the export of US energy efficiency and renewable energy technologies.

Mr. Lowenthal is a founding board member of the North American Board of Certified Energy Practitioners, establishing a national ANSI-approved certification of photovoltaic and solar water heating installation professionals. Mr. Lowenthal is a member of the GWIB Energy Industry Initiative Steering Committee.

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## PANELISTS

**Gino J. Gemignani, Jr.** is Senior Vice President of The Whiting-Turner Contracting Company, responsible for corporate business development. With 43 years of experience with Whiting-Turner, Mr. Gemignani is well-versed in all aspects of construction operations and management.

Mr. Gemignani maintains a high level of civic commitment, including the President's Advisory Council of UMBC, Colletgetown Business Advisory Council, Governor's Workforce Investment Board, and Alliance for the Mentally Disabled and the B&O Railroad Museum. He serves as board member or trustee of The Engineering Advisory Board of UMBC, St. Mary's Seminary, Engineering Advisory Committee of Loyola College, and the Emerging Technology Council.

Mr. Gemignani earned an associate degree in construction engineering from Baltimore Junior College and a Bachelor of Science degree in physics from Loyola College. He is a graduate of The Leadership Program of the Greater Baltimore Committee and of Leadership Maryland. Mr. Gemignani received the UMBC 2001 Engineer of the Year Award, Loyola 2003 Business Leader of the Year Award, Mt. St. Joseph High School Brother Bartholomew Award, Baltimore City Community College Distinguished Alumni Award and Loyola College's Carroll Medal.

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**I. Katherine Magruder** is Executive Director of the Maryland Clean Energy Center, engaging in business and workforce development initiatives and advocacy for supportive public policy and financing programs. Previously she was Chief of Staff at the University of Maryland Biotechnology Institute. As Director of Resource-Based Industries at the Maryland Department of Business and Economic Development, Ms. Magruder worked with multiple agencies, including the Maryland Energy Administration, to develop a statewide approach to advancing alternative energy initiatives and business creation. Her work included building a program focused on sustaining agriculture, forestry, mining, fisheries and maritime industry sectors. Working with Chesapeake Bay watershed municipalities on the Eastern Shore, Ms. Magruder led regional agribusiness and ecotourism initiatives recognizing the significant balance of environment, economy, and cultural character in effective sustainable development.

Ms. Magruder earned a BFA in Fine Art from the Maryland Institute College of Art. A Certified Economic Developer, she also has a Certificate in Destination Marketing & Management from George Washington University School of Business & Public Management.

**Dr. Kurt W. Roth** leads the Building Energy Efficiency Group at the Fraunhofer Center for Sustainable Energy Systems. His group builds upon the expertise of the Fraunhofer Institute for Solar Energy Systems and the Fraunhofer Institute for Building Physics to develop, demonstrate, and analyze innovative building technologies. He was a Principal in the Mechanical Systems group of TIAX LLC. Dr. Roth led Dept. of Energy studies to assess energy savings and commercialization potentials of HVAC, building controls and diagnostics, toplighting, and IT technologies. He also has led studies to quantify energy consumed by commercial and residential IT, consumer electronics, and residential and commercial miscellaneous electricity consumption. Dr. Roth has led efforts to assess hydrogen production costs and supports characterizations of renewable energy technologies, particularly solar thermal power plants.

Dr. Roth has authored over sixty “Emerging Technology” articles for the ASHRAE Journal. He authored a chapter on “Information Technology and Energy Use” for the Encyclopedia of Energy.

Dr. Roth received his B.S., M.S., and Ph.D. degrees from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, in mechanical engineering. He is a member of Sigma Xi, the American Society of Heating, Refrigeration, and Air-Conditioning Engineers, and the American Solar Energy Society.

**James E. Rzepkowski** is the Director of Workforce Development for Constellation Energy, headquartered in Baltimore, Maryland. Overseeing workforce development initiatives, he develops strategic partnerships with educational institutions to provide a skilled and qualified workforce to meet the growing needs of the energy industry. Mr. Rzepkowski represents Constellation Energy on numerous national industry association boards and work groups, as well as state and local workforce development organizations. Mr. Rzepkowski was appointed to the Anne Arundel County Board of Appeals in January 2007.

Prior to joining Constellation Energy, he served 12 years in Maryland State Government – three years as an Assistant Secretary within Maryland’s Department of Business and Economic Development and nine years as an elected member of the Maryland General Assembly in the House of Delegates.

Mr. Rzepkowski earned a Bachelor’s Degree in Government and Politics, with Phi Beta Kappa Honors, from the University of Maryland - College Park.

**Robert L. Wallace** is President and CEO of BITHGROUP Technologies, an information technology services company specializing in information technology services, management consulting, biometrics, SMS engineering, wireless engineering, and energy engineering and management.

An entrepreneur, author, business consultant, speaker, and founder of companies, Mr. Wallace’s expertise includes mechanical, energy and systems engineering, and application development, management consulting, telecommunications, operations management, entrepreneurship development, and urban economic development. Prior, Mr. Wallace worked for IBM, DuPont, Proctor & Gamble and Westinghouse.

Mr. Wallace’s appointments include the transition teams for Governors O’Malley and Ehrlich, Chairman of MD State IT Board, IT Consultant for the City of Baltimore ITB, Commissioner on MD Advanced Technology Commission, Minority Business Reform Commission and Executive Committee Chairman of MD Subcommittee on Commerce for Liberia.

Mr. Wallace has authored numerous books and articles, including *Structured Chaos: Business Lessons from the Emerging World*.

An undergraduate of the University of Pennsylvania with a degree in Mechanical Engineering and Applied Mechanics, Mr. Wallace earned a Masters degree from Dartmouth College, and a Doctorate of Humane Letters from Sojourner Douglas College.