Nuclear Energy Systems Workforce Summit

Building the Nuclear Workforce of Tomorrow, Today

Tuesday, December 16, 2025

on the campus of

Vanderbilt University

Profiles

Organized by:

CLEMSON UNIVERSITY

Massachusetts Institute of Technology

THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE KNOXVILLE
DEPARTMENT OF NUCLEAR ENGINEERING

VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY

CRESP
Consortium for Risk Evaluation with Stakeholder Participation

Nathan Anderson

U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO)

Nathan Anderson serves as a Director for DOE project and contract management at the U.S. GAO. Before his appointment to the Senior Executive Service, Mr. Anderson served as an Assistant Director, where he led a suite of projects examining DOE nuclear waste cleanup issues. Mr. Anderson joined GAO in 2001 after graduating from Whitman College with a bachelor's degree in economics and Georgetown University with a master's degree in public policy. He completed American University's Key Executive Leadership Certificate Program in 2018 and also holds a graduate certificate in international business management from Oxford University.

Charleson Bell

Vanderbilt University

Charleson S. Bell, PhD is the Hub Director of the NSF I-Corps Hub, Mid-South Region ("Mid-South Hub"), Program Director of the NSF ExLENT Coalition Responsible for Excellence in Skills Training (CREST), and State Lead of the NIH Mid-South Research, Evaluation, and Commercialization Hub (REACH). He is a Research Assistant Professor of Biomedical Engineering at Vanderbilt University and Associate Director of the Medical Innovators Development Program. Bell is a "Triple 'Dore," earning his Bachelor's in Engineering, Master's in Science, and Doctor of Philosophy in Biomedical Engineering – the first African American to earn a PhD in Biomedical Engineering at Vanderbilt. Dr. Bell's Department of Defense-funded research seeks to improve point-of-care deployability, interoperability, and smartphone compatibility. Dr. Bell has always possessed an entrepreneurial spirit and embraces new endeavors and innovations with great enthusiasm and passion. Dr. Bell uses his innovative mind and engineering knowledge to create novel technologies of great impact. Most importantly, he is a staunch believer that the value and practice of convergent innovation are critical to optimizing how innovators empathize with humanity and ideate solutions that create positive change across the world.

Craig Benson

University of Wisconsin-Madison

Craig H. Benson is an international authority on landfills and waste containment for a broad variety of waste streams. He has conducted applied research and consulting on a range of containment system issues for more than three decades. Benson served as Dean of Engineering at the University of Virginia and in various leadership roles at the University of Wisconsin-Madison before entering emeritus status. Benson is a Professional Engineer, Past-President of the ASCE Geo-Institute, and a member of the National Academy of Engineering.

Olivia Blackmon

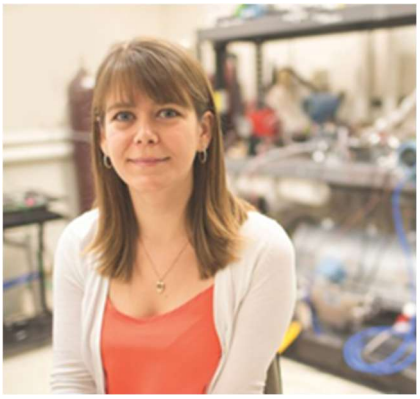
MPR Associates, Inc.

Dr. Blackmon serves as Vice President of New Nuclear at MPR Associates where she leads the strategic development, deployment, and commercialization of next-generation nuclear technologies. Dr. Blackmon previously led the Partnership for Nuclear Energy, building a national strategy and deployment recommendations with over 350 nuclear companies, and directed the Nuclear Energy Academic Alliance. She has developed and implemented comprehensive education, training and workforce strategies and community engagement plans for nuclear energy across multiple states. Dr. Blackmon earned her PhD from George Mason University, was a senior fellow at Harvard University, and served as a Fulbright Specialist in Africa and South America supporting energy infrastructure and education, training and workforce programs.

Lori Brady

Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI)

Lori Brady, Senior Director of Human Resources & Workforce Development at the Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI), is an accomplished HR professional with 30 years of experience. At NEI, Ms. Brady is responsible for coordinating nuclear energy industry workforce programs and initiatives. She is also responsible for implementing strategies that enable the Nuclear Energy Institute to recruit and retain a high-performing and motivated workforce. Ms. Brady holds a BA in International Studies from Kenyon College and a MBA in International Business from The George Washington University. She is certified through the Society for Human Resource Management as a Senior Certified Professional.



Jamie Coble

University of Tennessee - Knoxville

Dr. Jamie Coble is a Professor, Southern Company Faculty Fellow, and Associate Department Head in the Department of Nuclear Engineering at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. Her research interests expand on past work in nuclear system monitoring and prognostics to incorporate system monitoring and remaining useful life estimates into risk assessment, operations and maintenance planning, and optimal control algorithms. Dr. Coble is currently pursuing research in applications of data analytics, machine learning, and artificial intelligence to support risk-aware, economic operations and maintenance of nuclear power facilities, as well as applications of these techniques in other domains such as nuclear security and advanced manufacturing.

Michelle Conner
Tennessee Valley Authority

Michelle Conner serves as Senior Leader for New Nuclear Programs at Tennessee Valley Authority, where she provides strategic guidance on advanced nuclear technology implementation and workforce optimization across the nuclear enterprise. She has over 25 years of nuclear experience spanning operations, licensing, regulatory compliance, and organizational effectiveness. Previously serving as Senior Program Manager for SMR Operations and Training, Michelle developed operational frameworks for next-generation nuclear deployment and represented TVA in design reviews and stakeholder engagement with the NRC, NEI, INPO, and industry working groups. Her operational foundation includes nine years as a licensed Senior Reactor Operator and Nuclear Manager at Sequoyah Nuclear Plant.

Jeff Cooper
Centrus

Dr. Jeffrey Cooper is the Chief Technology Officer at Centrus Energy Corporation. He has been with the company for 21 years and is responsible for overseeing technology development, engineering activities, and resource planning across multiple Centrus sites. These activities are currently focused on operation of a 16-machine High Assay Low Enriched Uranium (HALEU) enrichment plant in Piketon Ohio as well as upcoming plant expansions to capitalize on the growing Low Enriched Uranium (LEU) and HALEU enrichment markets. Prior to his role as Chief Technology Officer, Dr. Cooper served as the Manager of Machine Technology and was responsible for all centrifuge sub-assemblies and their successful integration into the AC100M centrifuge design. He was also responsible for value engineering activities, reliability improvements, and the electrical design associated with centrifuge control. Dr. Cooper earned a Bachelor of Science in Physics from Bucknell University and Master of Science in Physics from Yale University. He earned a PhD in Experimental Nuclear Physics from Yale in 2002.

Denia Djokić
University of Michigan

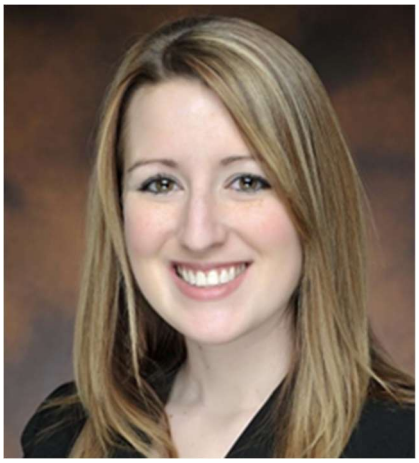
Denia Djokić is an Assistant Research Scientist at the University of Michigan's Fastest Path to Zero Initiative in the Department of Nuclear Engineering and Radiological Sciences. Her research focuses on the social, political, equity, and environmental justice aspects of nuclear waste management, advanced nuclear energy technology, and energy systems more broadly. Denia holds a PhD in nuclear engineering from the University of California, Berkeley, where she was a U.S. Department of Energy Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management Graduate Student Fellow. She received postdoctoral training in nuclear policy and Science and Technology Studies from Harvard University. She was a Levenick Resident Scholar in Sustainability Leadership at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Denia has also served as policy advisor on science, technology, and innovation for the Republic of Ecuador. She holds a BS in Physics from Carnegie Mellon University.

Teresa Duncan
Roane State
Community College

Teresa Duncan is the Vice President of Workforce and Community Development at Roane State Community College. In her current role, Teresa, along with her talented team, focuses daily on developing a strong workforce pipeline for the region. She provides oversight for Workforce Development, Tennessee Small Business Development Center, and the Cumberland Business Incubator. She was recently named Lead Nuclear Workforce Strategist for the Tennessee Board of Regents to provide statewide coordination for the effective response to the nuclear workforce needs.

Kristen Ellis
U.S. Department of Energy

Kristen Ellis serves as the Associate Deputy Under Secretary within the Office of the Under Secretary for Science, which manages over $14 billion in Federal funding for fundamental science research; stewardship of 10 of the Department's national labs and multiple user facilities; the newly launched DOE Genesis Mission for AI; and technology commercialization activities. She previously served as the Associate Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for the Office of Regulatory and Policy Affairs within the US Department of Energy's Environmental Management (EM) Office. Prior roles include leading EM's Regulatory, Intergovernmental, and Stakeholder Engagement Office; EM Senior Advisor for STEM and Talent Acquisition; transition lead of the DOE Office of Public Affairs; Chief of Staff for DOE Under Secretary for Science; and numerous leadership roles in the EM Office of External Affairs, the EM Intergovernmental Office and DOE's Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Affairs. She received her Juris Doctorate from the University of Baltimore School of Law and she received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science from Western Maryland College.



Christina England
U.S. Department of Energy
Office of General Counsel

Christina England is a senior attorney at the U.S. Department of Energy with a focus on nuclear health and safety, advanced reactor deployment, and the federal authorities that support commercialization across the nuclear cycle. Christina is a "Double 'Dore" earning her undergraduate degree at Vanderbilt University as well as a J.D. from Vanderbilt University Law School and Vanderbilt's Law & Business Certification. Entering government as a Presidential Management Fellow, her work centers on aligning federal capabilities with emerging industry needs, advancing public-private partnerships, and shaping the legal frameworks that guide the nation's evolving nuclear landscape. She has over seventeen years of experience in energy law through her work at the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, DOE, Argonne National Lab, and private practice, where she has developed niche expertise in international nuclear safety and oversight, fuel-cycle regulation, and interagency cooperation.

John Eschenberg
Amentum

At Amentum, John leads the nuclear, environment, and security business lines in North America. He also leads the company's Nuclear Center of Excellence, serving as the centralized capability for leadership, innovation, and project delivery capabilities purpose-built to enable energy dominance in the United States and the expansion of the international nuclear industry. His previous leadership roles include President and CEO of the Central Plateau Cleanup Company, President and CEO of Washington River Protection Solutions, and executive positions with AECOM, PricewaterhouseCoopers, and the U.S. Department of Energy. He remains dedicated to developing the next generation of nuclear professionals using modernized recruitment strategies, enhanced engagements with colleges and universities, and redesigned employee benefits programs to attract and retain top talent.

Cassandra Fike-Hanley
Oklo, Inc.

Cassandra has been at Oklo for two years, leading the development of the material control and accounting program for a first-of-a-kind fuel recycling facility. She also supported the development of Roane State's Nuclear Technology Program.

Lyndsey Fyffe

Dr. Lyndsey Fyffe is a nuclear safety engineer with Strategic Management Solutions, LLC. Dr. Fyffe has experience at DOE Sites around the complex, including both contractor and DOE roles. Prior to joining SMSI this year, she served as a senior technical advisor in the DOE Office of Nuclear Safety within the Department of Environment, Health, Safety and Security. Her areas of expertise include DOE safety analysis, the unrevised safety question process, technical safety requirements, and project management of nuclear safety projects. She has worked on a diverse array of facilities including waste, plutonium, accelerators, and research and development.

Michelle Goodson
Oak Ridge Associated Universities

Ms. Goodson is the Director of the ORAU STEM Accelerator (OSA). OSA is leading the way in nuclear workforce capacity-building locally, regionally, and nationally through key collaborative workforce development initiatives, including the Partnership for Nuclear Energy (PNE), the Nuclear Energy Academic Roadmap (NEAR). Ms. Goodson holds a certificate in Nuclear Energy Management from the IAEA and is credentialed as a Senior Certified Professional by the Society for Human Resource Management. She has earned the HCI Strategic Workforce Planning certificate and has more than 30 years of expertise in workforce development, full-cycle recruitment, technical staffing, training and development, and talent management. Ms. Goodson is a Co-Chairman for the Tennessee Nuclear Network Workforce Development Committee. She serves on various workforce development committees in collaboration with the Nuclear Energy Institute and the U.S. Women in Nuclear.

Megan Harkema
Vanderbilt University

Megan is a research engineer in the nuclear environmental engineering group at Vanderbilt University. She also serves as the assistant project manager for collaboration-based siting research led by Vanderbilt's Consortium for Risk Evaluation with Stakeholder Participation (CRESP). Megan's research interests include developing and applying novel safety analysis techniques as part of nuclear facility design and safety analysis, as well as leveraging historical information/lessons learned from DOE test reactor operation, S&M, and D&D for the design of modern engineered systems and advanced reactors. She was previously a DOE-NE University Nuclear Leadership Fellow and, in 2022, received a Nuclear Technology R&D Award in Energy Policy from DOE-NE's Office of Nuclear Fuel and Supply Chain.

Hash Hashemian
American Nuclear Society

H.M. "HASH" HASHEMIAN is President and Chief Executive Officer of AMS, a nuclear engineering firm operating since 1977 in the United States, Europe, and Asia. He has 48 years of experience in the development and delivery of industry-leading instrumentation and control system testing and analysis equipment, training, and services. Hash holds three doctorate degrees in engineering, including a Ph.D. in nuclear engineering, a Doctor of Engineering degree in electrical engineering, and a Ph.D. in computer engineering. Dr. Hashemian is a Fellow of three professional societies, including the American Nuclear Society, the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, and the International Society of Automation. He is also an adjunct professor of nuclear engineering at the University of Tennessee and an adjunct professor of practice at the Woodruff School of Mechanical Engineering at Georgia Institute of Technology. The Tennessee Governor appointed him to the Tennessee Nuclear Energy Advisory Council (TNEAC). He currently serves as President of the American Nuclear Society.

Jason Hatfield
Triso-X

Jason Hatfield serves as Vice President, Chief of Staff for Triso-X, a wholly owned subsidiary of X-Energy. In this role he supports the President, Joel Duling, in implementing the company vision to manufacture the most robust Nuclear Fuel on Earth. Prior to joining Triso-X, Hatfield was the Senior Vice President, Operations at Longenecker & Associates (L&A). Mr. Hatfield supported Readiness efforts across DOE, such as serving as the N3B IVR Lead for TA-21 in Los Alamos New Mexico in July 2024 and WIPP CORR Lead for SS Confinement Ventilation System in February 2025. Hatfield was the Mission Assurance Director for the Waste Treatment Plant in Richland, Washington. Hatfield was responsible for leading the Environmental Program, Safety & Health Program, Quality Assurance Program, Chemical Safety Management Program, Nuclear Safety, and served as the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board liaison for the project. Hatfield also served as the corporate manager of Startup and Operations for Bechtel National's Nuclear Security and Environmental business unit which manages DOE and DOD sites and projects across the United States.

Jason Hayward
University of Tennessee - Knoxville

Jason Hayward, UCOR Fellow, is a Professor of Nuclear Engineering at the University of Tennessee. Hayward holds appointments with Oak Ridge National Laboratory and the Y12 National Security Complex. He serves as Director of Defense Nuclear Nonproliferation's Enabling Capabilities in Technology Consortium and the Deputy Executive Director for the Nuclear Science and Security Consortium. Hayward has 70+ peer-reviewed publications and 25 PhD graduates. He teaches classes in engineering design, radiation detection and imaging, and nondestructive assay of nuclear materials. Hayward is an IEEE Senior Member, an INMM Senior Member, and an Associate Editor for IEEE Transactions on Nuclear Science. Past accomplishments include serving as the Director of Graduate Studies for the University of Tennessee Department of Nuclear Engineering (2019-2022), being the recipient of a DOE Science CAREER award (2013), and recognitions from the IEEE Nuclear and Plasma Society (2025) and the American Society of Engineering Education (2012, 2014). He holds a PhD in Nuclear Engineering and Radiological Sciences from the University of Michigan. Prior to his time in academia, Hayward served as a U.S. Naval Officer for eight years.

Ron Henderson
Middle Tennessee State University

Ron Henderson is Professor and Chair of the Department of Physics & Astronomy at Middle Tennessee State University. He has authored dozens of publications on compound semiconductors and inorganic quantum dots. More recently, his work has focused on strengthening outcomes for undergraduate physics majors and supporting their career development, including the launch of a new concentration in Quantum Science and Computing. Dr. Henderson has secured $1 million in funding to advance these initiatives and related research. He previously served as Principal Investigator on a Robert Noyce Scholarship grant and a comprehensive PhysTEC grant from the American Physical Society. The department has been honored by the American Physical Society as one of only four Departments of Distinction for improving undergraduate education.

Kathy Higley

National Council on Radiation Protection and Measurements

Kathryn Higley is an OSU Distinguished Professor of Nuclear Science and Engineering (NSE) in the College of Engineering at Oregon State University and the 7th President of the National Council on Radiation Protection and Measurements (NCRP). She also holds a joint appointment with the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (PNNL) as a Chief Scientist in its Earth Systems Sciences Division. Previously, she served for a decade as School Head of NSE and managed OSU's Radiation Health Physics program, including developing its online graduate degree, into the largest in the country. Dr. Higley has been at Oregon State University since 1994 and has been researching the environmental fate and transport of radionuclides. Her research has enabled her to help communities impacted by radiological contamination by working as a technical resource and liaison. Dr. Higley has previously been a member of the International Commission on Radiological Protection and was formerly Chair of Committee 5: Protection of the Environment. She is a Fellow of the Health Physics Society and a Certified Health Physicist.

Jeffrey King

Tennessee Tech University

Prof. Jeffrey (Jeff) King completed his PhD in Nuclear Engineering in 2006 as a member of the Institute for Space and Nuclear Power Studies at the University of New Mexico. He was an Assistant Professor in the Mining and Nuclear Engineering Department at Missouri S&T. Prof. King joined the Colorado School of Mines in 2009 to help create the Nuclear Science and Engineering Program there. In 2024, Prof. King joined the Tennessee Technological University as the Founding Director of the new Nuclear Engineering Department. Prof. King's research and teaching interests span the nuclear fuel cycle, including reactor physics, reactor design, nuclear materials, and the public policy issues related to nuclear power, with publications in each of these areas. Prof. King is active in the space nuclear technology field as a charter Member and previous Chair of the American Nuclear Society's Aerospace Nuclear Science and Technology Division. Professor King's space nuclear technology research spans a wide array of space nuclear topics, including nuclear system launch safety, space nuclear reactor control, space nuclear reactor shielding, and, most recently, the design and analysis of moderated low-enrichment uranium-fueled space nuclear reactors.

Spencer Klein

Nuclear Energy Institute

Spencer Klein is a Senior Project Manager in the Technical and Regulatory Services Division at the Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI). In this role, he leads programs designed to improve the commercial environment for the nuclear energy industry's prospects for deploying new nuclear power plants with a focus on licensing and authorization processes and lessons learned, international regulatory harmonization, frameworks for the high-volume licensing of reactors, and the deployment of micro-reactor's for Military and Space-based applications. Prior to joining NEI, Spencer worked for Ultra Safe Nuclear and the Tennessee Valley Authority in the area's of site characterization and licensing for the deployment of advanced nuclear technologies. Spencer is a certified Project Management Professional (PMP) and holds a bachelor's and master's degree in engineering management from the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga, and a Certification of Specialization in Leadership & Management from Harvard Business School.

David Kosson
Vanderbilt University

Dr. David S. Kosson is the Gass Family Chair in Energy and the Environment, Distinguished Professor of Civil and Environmental Engineering at Vanderbilt University, and the Director of the Environmental Engineering Laboratory. Professor Kosson is the Principal Investigator for the multi-university Consortium for Risk Evaluation with Stakeholder Participation Consortium for Risk Evaluation with Stakeholder Participation (CRESP) supported by the Department of Energy to improve the risk-informed basis for remediation and management of nuclear waste from former defense materials production and nuclear energy. Professor Kosson and CRESP are also supporting national nuclear workforce development initiatives at Vanderbilt. Professor Kosson's research focuses on the management of nuclear and chemical wastes, including leaching assessment, process development, and contaminant mass transfer applied to groundwater, soil, sediment, and waste systems. Professor Kosson has participated in or led numerous external technical reviews on nuclear waste processing and environmental remediation for the Department of Energy, including tank waste and a range of technologies at Hanford, Savannah River, WIPP, and Idaho sites.

Steve Krahn
Vanderbilt University

Dr Krahn is Professor of the Practice of Nuclear Environmental Engineering in the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering at Vanderbilt University, where he teaches courses in nuclear and high-hazard facility engineering, along with performing research in risk assessment and systems engineering as applied to the full spectrum of operating nuclear facilities, advanced nuclear facility designs and nuclear fuel cycle issues. Prior to coming to Vanderbilt, he had a 35-year career in the nuclear industry, culminating in has appointment as Deputy Assistant Secretary for Safety, Security & Quality in DOE-EM—where he provided senior technical leadership to DOE's $6-7B/year nuclear waste processing/management, and environmental restoration program and was the senior executive responsible for approving safety bases for high-hazard facilities. He also consults to industry and is an internationally recognized expert in the design, construction and operation of nuclear facilities.

Albert Kruger
Glass Scientist

Albert joined the Department of Energy in 2007 after working in the laboratory of the world's oldest and largest glass company, Saint-Gobain Recherche in Aubervilliers, France. Before that, 3M Central Research Physics & Materials Group, and Bell Telephone Laboratories. In December of 2010, he was named Supervisor of the Vitrification Group and subsequently Acting Director of the Waste Treatment & Immobilization Plant (WTP) Engineering Division. In January 2013, he received a permanent appointment to the Excepted Service as a Glass Scientist. Albert has responsibility for glass formulation, durability testing, process capacity efficiency, and involvement with the melters. His work has generated more than 30 patents worldwide. He has authored and presented over 250 scholarly papers, including a prestigious Solvay Seminar, Gordon Scientific Conferences, and lectured at the NATO Summer School on Oxide Surfaces.

Lauren Lathem

Southern Company

Lauren Lathem is the advanced nuclear program manager within Southern Company's Research, Environment and Sustainability organization. In this role, she leads a research program focused on the development, demonstration and deployment of advanced nuclear technology, with a particular emphasis on molten salt reactors (MSR). She manages two major cost-shared public-private partnerships with a combined value exceeding $250 million. Lathem holds a Bachelor of Chemical Engineering degree from Auburn University. She has been named to the American Nuclear Society's 40 Under 40 and the Auburn University Alumni Association's 20 under 40 list.

Cristina Long Paredes

South Carolina Nexus for Advanced Resilient Energy

Cristina Paredes is the Executive Director of SC Nexus, South Carolina's TechHub for Advanced Resilient Energy. SC Nexus leads technology-driven economic development, advancing energy innovation to build a resilient energy value chain that enhances national security and global competitiveness. Under Cristina's leadership, SC Nexus drives lab-to-market solutions, attracting cutting-edge companies and research to South Carolina. With 20 years of experience spanning economic development, community development, and strategic leadership, Cristina is a nationally recognized leader in advancing innovation and resilience. Cristina has successfully guided major initiatives—from regional innovation labs to advanced manufacturing facilities—and her results-driven leadership has earned her multiple awards, including recognition as one of North America's Top 50 Economic Developers. Cristina holds a master's in public administration and is pursuing a Master of Legal Studies in Environmental and Energy Law.

Sue Magidson

Vanderbilt University

Sue brings four decades of experience in nuclear-environmental remediation, having worked with both federal agencies and private companies. She dedicated roughly 30 years to the Department of Energy (DOE), where she took on leadership roles within the Offices of Environmental Management, Nuclear Energy, and Assets Utilization. Before retiring from DOE, she served as Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for the Office of Environmental Management, overseeing the safe and effective cleanup of nuclear defense sites and managing an annual budget of roughly $7 billion. Sue earned her bachelor's and master's degrees in environmental engineering from Vanderbilt University and is now working toward her doctorate in the same discipline. Her current research centers on nuclear education and workforce development.

Lisa Marshall

American Nuclear Society

Lisa Marshall is the Immediate Past President and executive board member of the American Nuclear Society. With over 24 years of engineering education experience spanning pre-college to graduate studies, Marshall is the inaugural Director of Outreach, Retention and Engagement (starting in 2001), and the inaugural Assistant Extension Professor (starting in 2023) at North Carolina State University Department of Nuclear Engineering. Human capacity building, workforce development and stakeholder engagement are key foci of Lisa's work. She is a member of the OECD Nuclear Energy Agency (NEA) Council of Advisers, and chairs their Global Forum Working Group on Building a Pipeline of STEM Professionals. Lisa recently joined the executive committee for the North Carolina Nuclear Advisory Council and is an advisory committee member for ORNL Fission and Fusion Energy and Science Directorate as well as the ORAU Advisory Council for Partnership for Nuclear Energy.

Jay Mullis

United Cleanup Oak Ridge (UCOR)

Jay Mullis is UCOR's Chief Nuclear Officer, overseeing all nuclear operations and maintenance functions, including the Transuranic Waste Processing Center (TWPC), Liquid Gaseous Waste Operations, and the Sludge Project. He is also responsible for nuclear criticality and safety, as well as nuclear subject matter experts and fellows. Jay previously served as Manager of the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) Oak Ridge Office of Environmental Management (OREM). As the OREM Manager, he oversaw the environmental cleanup mission across the 30,000-acre Oak Ridge Reservation. Mullis holds a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering from The Citadel, and he is a licensed Professional Engineer in the State of South Carolina. He completed extensive training and was qualified as a Nuclear Engineer while working for the Navy at the Charleston Naval Shipyard, and was a fully certified Facility Representative for the DOE. Mullis has more than 30 years of federal service.

Ryan Murdock

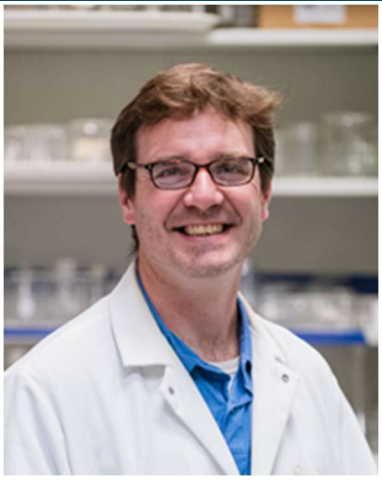
Waste Control Specialists

Ryan Murdock is the Director of Technical Services at Waste Control Specialists LLC (WCS), where he oversees the management of all radioactive and hazardous waste shipped to the WCS site in Andrews, Texas for storage, treatment, and disposal. In this role, he ensures compliance with local, state, and federal regulations, working closely with the DOE, the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ), and the NRC. With a Bachelor of Science degree in Health Physics, Ryan has more than two decades of experience across diverse sectors, including Decontamination and Demolition projects, the Department of Energy, the Commercial Nuclear Power industry, and extensive private industry work in radioactive material handling and compliance. Beyond his role at WCS, Ryan serves on the Board of Directors of the National Registry of Radiation Protection Technologists (NRRPT), where he is currently sits as the Vice Chairman.

Ron Parsons

Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation

Ronald Parsons serves as the Radioactive Material Licensing Manager for the Tennessee Division of Radiological Health, bringing over three decades of experience in the field of radiological health and licensing. A graduate of Middle Tennessee State University, he earned a Bachelor of Science degree, which laid the foundation for his extensive career in public health and safety.



Brian Powell

Clemson University

Dr. Brian Powell holds the Fjeld Professorship in Nuclear Environmental Engineering and Science in the Department of Environmental Engineering and Earth Sciences at Clemson University and joint appointments in the Department of Chemistry and the Savannah River National Laboratory (SRNL). Dr. Powell has combined radiochemistry with environmental science, environmental engineering, and geochemistry to encompass both fundamental laboratory studies and mesoscale and field-based studies. Professor Powell has published over 120 peer-reviewed journal articles and 2 book chapters, given over 200 technical presentations, graduated 16 Ph.D. students and 20 M.S. students, and advised 14 postdoctoral researchers. Dr. Powell was awarded the 2014 South Carolina Governor's Young Researcher Award for Excellence in Scientific Research, a 2013 U.S. Department of Energy Early Career Research Award, the 2018 Citizens for Nuclear Technology Awareness, Fred C. Davidson Distinguished Scientist Award, and named the 2022 Clemson University Senior Researcher of the Year.

Ross Radel

SHINE Technologies

Dr. Radel has served as SHINE's Chief Technology Officer since April 2021. He has over 20 years of R&D experience on a variety of fusion, fission, and particle accelerator technologies that are directly applicable to SHINE's core technologies and is licensed as a Professional Engineer. From 2011 to 2021, Dr. Radel served as the CEO and Board Member of Phoenix Nuclear Labs where he led dozens of technical projects related to neutron generation and neutron-based detection methods. Prior to joining Phoenix, he served as a Senior Member of the Technical Staff at Sandia National Laboratories where he worked to develop space nuclear power systems. Dr. Radel holds a Ph.D. in nuclear engineering from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, where his research focused on high-flux fusion neutron generation for detecting clandestine materials such as HEU.

Jon Richards
Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

Jon has over 35 years of environmental radiation experience, mostly from a regulatory role with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Serving as a project manager and radiation expert for many radiation sites, including large DOE nuclear sites like Savannah River Site and Oak Ridge, NORM sites like phosphate and coal ash, and commercial low level radiation waste sites. Has served on several IAEA workgroups, including shallow radioactive waste trenches and Fukushima recycling, and also a workgroup on In-Situ Decommissioning of reactors with UK, Canada, and the US. Has collaborated with other U.S. federal agencies on developing radiation characterization and lab protocol guidance like MARSIM and MARLAP.

Jeff Richardson
Energy Solutions

With over 30 years of experience in executive leadership in nuclear power engineering, development, project & program management, corporate restructuring, and operations, Jeff Richardson is the Chief Projects Officer at EnergySolutions with responsibility for corporate project management office, new nuclear programs, site decommissioning, engineering, radiologic programs, and licensing as well as Canadian operations. Jeff was previously Senior Vice President of Nuclear Projects at Ontario Power Generation with responsibility for all aspects of the 4-unit refurbishment of Darlington Nuclear Generating Station. Jeff also served as an executive with Entergy Nuclear for over 25 years in various roles. He also led the establishment of the Entergy Nuclear Project Management Office, which was responsible for overall planning, business case development, financial modeling, investment approvals, and the implementation of major projects across the Entergy Nuclear fleet. Jeff received the Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering from the University of Arkansas (1991) and is a Licensed Professional Engineer.

Rod Rimando
U.S. Department of Energy, Environmental Management

Rodrigo (Rod) Rimando, Jr. has over 39 years of nuclear and environmental experience with the first 10 as a nuclear engineer at U.S. Department of Navy's Charleston Naval Shipyard supporting the overhaul, refueling and deactivation of nuclear-powered submarines. His nuclear field experience continued as an environmental engineer and Federal Project Director at U.S. Department Energy's Savannah River Site and Brookhaven National Laboratory leading a diverse portfolio of decommissioning, soil and water remediation, waste management, and nuclear fuels and materials projects. He transferred to DOE Office of Environmental Management Headquarters in 2012 and served as senior technical advisor and senior site liaison. From 2016 to 2019, he was Director, Office of Technology Development. He returned in a similar technology leadership role in 2022 and is currently Director, Office of Technology Operations leading enterprise cleanup innovation.

Curtis Roberts

Orano, USA

Curtis is the Vice President of Communications and Press Officer for Orano USA leading all aspects of external and internal communications. His strategic communications and marketing experience includes roles in international corporations, a Fortune 500 company, a public relations agency, and nonprofit organizations. The holder of two patents in digital communications and a Six Sigma Greenbelt, Curtis earned a bachelor's degree in English from Christopher Newport University and an MBA from the University of Lynchburg.

Kent Rosenberger

Savannah River Mission Completion (SRMC)

Mr. Rosenberger has spent the last 35 years at the Savannah River Site. The first 14 years were within the Radiological Protection Department supporting new facility design and existing facility operational technical support primarily in liquid waste processing and disposal and nuclear materials processing. The next 17 years were spent supporting the development of closure planning documents including Performance Assessments and Waste Determinations primarily for SRS tank closures and Saltstone disposal. Mr. Rosenberger has been the Senior Director of ESH&Q for Savannah River Mission Completion since 2022.

Gene Sievers

Y-12 National Security Complex

Gene Sievers is the vice president of Production and Operations for Consolidated Nuclear Security, the management and operating contractor for the Y-12 National Security Complex in Oak Ridge, Tennessee. Sievers is responsible for overseeing Production; Operations Support; and Safeguards, Security, and Emergency Services. Prior to this role, he served as Y-12 site manager, where he led daily operations to sustain a safe, secure, and effective nuclear deterrent. Before being appointed Y-12 site manager, Sievers served as vice president of Mission Assurance for CNS. In this role, he was responsible for several organizations, including Enterprise Occupational Health; Operations Assurance; Quality; and Environment, Safety, and Health. As the nation responded to the COVID-19 pandemic, Sievers led the Mission Assurance organization to ensure the work environment was responding proactively to its employees, the public, and the environment. During that time, Sievers ensured that the quality of production activities met requirements of federal program and design agency customers, which provided certifiable confidence in the nuclear stockpile. Other daily responsibilities included providing subject matter expertise for all readiness activities as well as nuclear and explosives safety and coordinating with the Department of Energy Office of Enforcement Coordination.

Nikki Sizemore
Kairos Power

Nikki Hashemian Sizemore is the Government Affairs Manager at Kairos Power, where she manages the company's state and local engagement strategy. In this role, she engages with key stakeholders, community leaders, and policymakers to advance Kairos Power's mission of deploying advanced nuclear technology. Previously, Sizemore served as Government Relations Manager at NuScale Power, where she assisted in development of their government relations strategy in North America and internationally, supported new business opportunities and strategic partnerships through government engagement. Prior to NuScale, Sizemore served as an Assistant Attorney General for the State of Tennessee specializing in civil litigation, defending the State's interests in tort actions and addressing constitutional challenges. Her commitment to public service is evident in her internships, including as a law clerk on the U.S. Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions under Chairman Senator Lamar Alexander and in the General Counsel's Office for the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation focusing on energy policy. She began her career in nuclear energy at Analysis and Measurement Corporation, coordinating industry events with customers and government officials, recruiting technical staff, and assisting with federal grants.

Greg Sosson
U.S. Department of Energy, Environmental Management

Greg has over 38 years of experience in nuclear operations and engineering. He is the Associate Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary (APDAS) for Field Operations for the Office of Environmental Management (EM) since 2023, responsible for developing strategies, policy, and guidance for the 15 EM field sites in support of the EM mission. He oversees nuclear operations, safeguards and security, and technology development. He previously served as Deputy Assistant Secretary (DAS) for Safety, Security, and Quality Assurance, the Acting Manager at the Carlsbad Field Office, and the Associate DAS for Field Operations Oversight and Chief of Nuclear Safety. Prior to joining the Department of Energy in 2015, Greg spent 28 years in the commercial nuclear industry in senior operations and engineering positions with a focus on safety and efficient execution. He spent 10 years as a licensed Senior Reactor Operator and is a Licensed Professional Engineer in Pennsylvania and spent 10 years as an Army National Guard Infantry Officer.

Andrew Sowder
Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI)

Andrew Sowder is a Senior Technical Executive at EPRI where he launched and leads EPRI's strategic program on fusion. Previously, he established EPRI's advanced reactor research portfolio and managed applied research on advanced nuclear fuel cycles and used nuclear fuel management. Prior to joining EPRI, Andrew served at the U.S. Department of State, investigated uranium fate and transport on the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE's) Savannah River Site, and worked at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency as an AAAS science and technology policy fellow. Andrew received a B.S. in Optics from the University of Rochester and a Ph.D. in Environmental Systems Engineering from Clemson University. He is a Certified Health Physicist and serves as Chair of the American Nuclear Society's Standards Board.

Ryan Stuckey

Westinghouse Electric Corporation

Ryan Stuckey has been with Westinghouse Electric Company for almost 19 years. He has held multiple Human Resources roles during his tenure supporting fuel manufacturing, engineering and AP1000 construction. Currently, he is the Sr. Manager, Human Resources Operations at the Columbia Fuel Fabrication Facility (CFFF) in Hopkins, SC. He has both a bachelor's degree and Master of Human Resources degree from the University of South Carolina.

Haruko Wainwright

Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)

Haruko Wainwright is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Nuclear Science and Engineering, and the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering at Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Before joining MIT, she was a Staff Scientist in the Earth and Environmental Sciences Area at Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory. Her research is to advance environmental simulations and data science with a particular focus on nuclear waste and related contamination

Jeff Whitt

Virginia Innovative Nuclear Hub

Jeff Whitt, Executive Director of the Virginia Innovative Nuclear (VIN) Hub, facilitates collaboration between industry stakeholders and the Commonwealth to help achieve the Virginia Energy Plan objectives and advance nuclear energy solutions. With over four decades of leadership experience in nuclear energy and telecommunications, he possesses expertise in technical, commercial, and strategic business development. As the former President of Framatome U.S. Government Solutions LLC, he led the advancement of innovative nuclear technologies through collaborative efforts and strategic initiatives with the government and reactor technology developers. Throughout his career, Jeff has held diverse roles, including manufacturing, engineering, customer engagement, and serving on advisory boards. His contributions have helped to shape the future of nuclear energy, and he has actively represented the U.S. nuclear industry on the international stage.

Clint Wolfley

United Cleanup Oak Ridge (UCOR)

Clint Wolfley serves as UCOR's Director of End State Delivery, overseeing site integration and cleanup operations at various national security sites, including environmental cleanup, D4 operations, operational excellence, and nuclear operations. With 20 years of project and executive management experience in construction, cleanup, security, and environmental, safety, and health, Clint previously led UCOR's Safety Systems and Services as Chief Safety/Security Officer. His extensive background includes senior management positions with AECOM and its predecessors, focusing on safety and health for major projects like the Washington River Protection Solutions LLC in Hanford, Washington, and the Sellafield Sites in the United Kingdom. Clint holds a Bachelor of Science in Business Management from Boise State University and a Master of Science in International Construction/Project Management from the University of Florida.