

SPEAKERS

Dr. Timothy M. Persons

Dr. Timothy M. Persons was appointed the Chief Scientist of the United States Government Accountability Office (GAO - the investigative arm of the U.S. Congress) in July of 2008. As such, he is a member of the Senior Executive Service of the U.S. federal government. He also serves as a Director for GAO's Center for Science, Technology, and Engineering (CSTE), a group of highly specialized scientists, engineers, mathematicians, and information technologists. In these roles he is an expert advisor and chief consultant to the GAO, Congress, and other federal agencies and government programs on advanced analytics and cutting-edge science and technology (S&T), key highly-specialized national and international systems, engineering policies, best practices, and original research studies in the fields of engineering, computer, and the physical and biological sciences to ensure efficient, effective, and economical use of science and technology in government programs. He has led Technology Assessments and scientific studies for the U.S. Congress on topics ranging from anthrax and high containment laboratories, 3D printing, nanomanufacturing, biodetection systems, homeland security imaging and nuclear detection systems, freshwater conservation technologies, and climate engineering technologies. Prior to joining GAO, Dr. Persons held key leadership roles in the National Security Community.

Dr. Persons is a recipient of a 2016 James Madison University (JMU) Distinguished Alumnus Award, a 2014 recipient of a GAO Distinguished Service Award, a 2012 recipient of the Arthur S. Flemming award in recognition of sustained outstanding and meritorious achievement within the U.S. federal government; and a 2012 recipient of GAO's Big Picture Award for significant project achievement involving the ability to look longer, broader, and more strategically at key national or global issues. In 2007, Dr. Persons was awarded a Director of National Intelligence Science and Technology Fellowship focusing on computational imaging systems research. He was also selected as the JMU Physics Alumnus of 2007. He has also served as a radiation physicist with the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He received his B.Sc. (Physics) from JMU, a M.Sc. (Nuclear Physics) from Emory University, and a M.Sc. (Computer Science) and Ph.D. (Biomedical Engineering) degrees from Wake Forest University. He is a member of the board of the Senior Executives Association, a senior member of the Institute for Electrical and Electronic Engineers (IEEE), serves as a council member (*ex officio*) of the National Academy of Sciences' (NAS) Government-University-Industry Research Roundtable (GUIRR) as well as the World Future Society Global Advisory Council, and has authored or co-authored an array of journal, conference, and technical articles.

Barbara Felver

Barbara Felver has over 25 years of state service in program management, executive communications, and finance, research and policy positions. She is author or co-author of numerous studies and is widely known for her expertise in displaying visual information. During her tenure in Washington State government, Barbara has served on the implementation team of two state agencies and has worked for several agency directors, including the state Office of Financial Management. Throughout her career, she has turned the display of quantitative data into an art. She is now the Senior Communications Manager for Program Research and Evaluation with the DSHS Research and Data Analysis Division in Olympia.

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Bonnie Crawford

Bonnie Crawford is a native Oregonian hailing from the tiny town of Halfway, tucked away at the foot of the Willowa Mountains. She pursued her undergrad in Theater Arts at Southern Oregon, and then moved to New Zealand for a year and pursued hobbits in a \$400 Mitsubishi with no radio. She did not catch any. The following couple of years were spent in New Mexico, where she hawked margaritas to wealthy Texans until she became a Boys and Girls Club Site Director. There she discovered that she had an interest in and a penchant for usefulness to her fellow humans, beyond making them (very good) margaritas. In 2011, a few years after moving back to Oregon, she enrolled in the MPA program at Portland State and started working as a Research Assistant on a variety of projects, including the Total Cost of Compensation Study, at the Center for Public Service. Here she discovered that there was more than one way to be a useful person, and that she enjoyed working on projects and thought data was pretty keen. In 2014 she started working as a Performance Auditor at the Oregon Secretary of State Audits Division, where she has worked on three audits- Pension Spiking, OYA/Juvenile Justice Female Transition Services, and now Water Resources. She is also the administrator of the Oregon Audits Division blog, oregonaudits.org.

Jessica Kiney

Jessica Kiney is the New Media Manager for the Washington State Auditor's Office, responsible for managing digital content for the Office including website, video, social media, and more. A native of northern Illinois, Jessica joined the Washington State Auditor's Office in 2014. Her prior role was managing organizing communications for a Teamster's Local in Chicago. She has a Master's of Business Administration with an emphasis in marketing and a Master's of Humanities with an emphasis in communications from Tiffin University in Ohio. Jessica has a special place in her heart for garnering civic engagement through the use of visual storytelling tools.

Rebecca Connolly

Rebecca Connolly works as a research analyst and editor for Washington JLARC. Recent studies addressed public lands and workers' compensation. Before joining JLARC in 2013, she worked in policy and performance management for the Recreation and Conservation Office. Her career includes a decade as a program manager at the King County Sheriff's Office, focusing on intergovernmental contracts and annexations. Rebecca has worked in communications for health insurance, cooperative extension, and land trust organizations. Rebecca holds a B.S. in organizational communication from Cornell University and serves as a trustee for a 5-county library system.

Nicole Dewees

Nicole Dewees is a Senior Management Auditor in the Multnomah County Auditor's Office. She has a Master's degree in Business Administration and is a Certified Internal Auditor. Prior to joining Multnomah County, Nicole worked as a management analyst for the Washington State Employment Security Department and as an analyst for the Washington Small Business Development Center research office.

Jennifer McGuirk

Jennifer McGuirk is a senior management auditor in the Multnomah County Auditor's Office. Her pre-auditing career included work in communications, organizational development, and writing and managing

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grants. Jennifer is a certified internal auditor, and for her master's degree in public administration she focused on local government administration and public involvement.

Therese Bottomly

Therese Bottomly is the director of news at The Oregonian/OregonLive. She is responsible for enterprise and watchdog reporting, as well as the subjects of politics, business and the environment. She also oversees the Data Team and the public editor's desk. She is the current president of the Oregon Newspaper Publishers Association. She also serves on the Oregon Bar-Press-Broadcasters Council, a group that works to resolve conflicts between the media and the bar.

Hillary Borrud

Hillary Borrud is a reporter for EO Media Group in Salem, where she is part of a two-person team covering state politics and government. She reported on former first lady Cylvia Hayes' \$118,000 fellowship, the Department of Revenue's decision not to audit for energy tax credit capital gains, and the state's cyber security shortfalls. Hillary previously covered local government for The Bulletin in Bend, and enjoys incorporating data analysis into her work.

John Schrag

In February (2016), **John Schrag** was named the executive editor of the Pamplin Media Group, which includes the Portland Tribune and more than 20 community papers in the region. In his new position he oversees group-wide projects within the company and with outside news partners. He came to Oregon in 1990 from Chicago, where he was editor of a monthly investigative magazine focusing on race relations. A year later, he began 14-year stint at *Willamette Week*, capping his tenure there as news editor, before leaving to become editor and publisher of the Forest Grove *News-Times*, a Pamplin paper. In 2012, he helped launch the Hillsboro Tribune and served as its first publisher.

Nigel Jaquiss

Nigel Jaquiss has been a reporter at *Willamette Week* in Portland, Ore. since 1998. He has won local and national reporting honors, including three Bruce Baer Awards, Oregon's top reporting prize; the 2005 Pulitzer Prize for investigative reporting; three first place awards from Investigative Reporters and Editors, including a 2014 IRE medal for reporting that led to the resignation of Oregon Gov. John Kitzhaber; and, the 2016 Chairman's

Citation from the National Press Foundation.

Prior to joining *Willamette Week*, Nigel traded oil for 11 years in New York and Singapore. He is a graduate of Dartmouth College and the Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism.

Joel Neimeyer

Joel Neimeyer serves as Federal Co-Chair of the Denali Commission, an innovative federal agency that is a federal-state partnership designed to provide critical utilities, infrastructure and support for economic

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development in Alaska. The Commission has been in existence since 1998 and delivers federal services in the most cost effective manner possible.

He was appointed in April 2014 by U.S. Commerce Secretary Penny Pritzker. He has 30 years experience as a civil engineer in planning, designing and constructing rural Alaska infrastructure projects.

He presently serves as a Board Member for the Anchorage Neighborhood Health Center, is Chair of the Municipality of Anchorage On-Site Technical Review Board, and serves as a Council Member to the White House Council on Native American Affairs and the White House Council on Rural Affairs.

David A. Sheppard

David A. Sheppard was appointed Inspector General for the Denali Commission on July 28, 2015, after acting in that role for nearly a year. As IG for the Denali Commission, he monitors the use of federal money by conducting audits, investigations, and evaluations as well as overseeing the Commission's annual financial statements audit. His office's work is intended to prevent and detect waste, fraud, and abuse, as well as promote economy, effectiveness, and efficiency.

David was named Regional Inspector General of the U.S. Department of Commerce in February 2002. As Regional IG, David has oversight responsibilities for Commerce agency programs, including the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, National Institute of Standards and Technology, Economic Development Administration, and Minority Business Development Agency.

David began his career working for the Department of Commerce, Office of Inspector General in Washington, DC and has been in the inspector general community for nearly three decades. He began his career conducting audits and evaluations of Commerce's trade promotion efforts, traveling to nearly 20 foreign countries. As a result of David's experience evaluating foreign commercial service operations, he was called upon to train Foreign Service nationals on financial and organizational management concepts and was responsible for complex evaluations of the Department's efforts in promoting U.S. exports overseas.

David has been a member of the Seattle Federal Executive Board since 2002 and is currently an elected officer on the board. David is also a board member of the Pacific Northwest Intergovernmental Audit Forum and former board chair of the Giddens Elementary School.

David has received numerous awards for his contributions to federal service, including a silver medal and nine bronze medals. In September 2015, he was awarded the Department's gold medal, the highest honor awarded from the Secretary of Commerce, for his work as the Denali Commission Inspector General.

Gary Blackmer

Gary Blackmer recently retired after six years directing the Oregon Secretary of State Audits Division. The Division conducts performance, financial, and information technology audits, monitors financial audits of

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local governments, and responds to hotline allegations. Previous experience includes 10 years as the elected Portland City Auditor and eight years as elected Multnomah County Auditor. Gary is a past-Chair of the Pacific Northwest Intergovernmental Audit Forum, past-President of the Association of Local Government Auditors, and currently is a columnist for the *Local Government Auditing Quarterly*. Gary became a Certified Internal Auditor in 1988, and has a bachelor's degree from Northern Illinois University.

Curtis Matthews

Curtis Matthews, CPA, CCA, CPE, CGMA, is the Partner In Charge of Moss Adams' Contract Compliance and Control Solutions Practice and brings over 30 years of relevant experience. He formerly directed Construction Risk Management Services for PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP and was responsible for the worldwide construction audits covering Intel's multi-billion-dollar projects.

Curtis has helped project owners negotiate favorable contract terms, implement strong project controls, monitor construction controls performance and ensure that construction project charges are compliant with contract requirements.

Terri Russell

Terri Russell is the Managing Director for GAO's Professional Development Program working with newly hired auditors for the first two years. Terri also has responsibility for leading recruiting efforts for GAO's Student Intern Program and Entry Level Analysts. She has over 20 years of GAO experience and has served as Director for the Professional Development Program, East Region Director for seven Field Offices and the Atlanta Field Office Manager. Terri also served as adjunct faculty and a learning board member for GAO's Learning Center, which oversees training at GAO.

Jacqueline McDonald

Jacqueline McDonald is a Senior Manager with the Office of the Auditor General of British Columbia in Victoria, British Columbia Canada. Jacquie has been conducting performance audits for more than 13 years. Audits she has completed include: Environmental Cumulative Effects Management Audit (2015); School District Board Governance Examination (2013); Police Complaints Audit (2012); Sea-to-Sky Highway Improvement Audit (2012); British Columbia Coroners Service Audit (2011); Crown Corporation Executive Compensation Arrangements Audit (2009); Trades Training and Apprenticeship Audit (2008); 25,000 Post-Secondary Education Seat Expansion Audit (2006); Teacher Professional Development Better Practice Guide (2004).

Natalie Block

Natalie Block is an analyst in the Seattle Field Office for GAO. She has worked for GAO as a performance auditor for approximately 2 years and is part of the entry-level Professional Development Program that is designed for all new auditors. Her work has included audits on the U.S. Department of Transportation, Department of the Interior, Department of Commerce, Department of Defense, and Department of Homeland Security. Before becoming an auditor for GAO, Natalie worked in the non-profit world in

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outreach and program management. She received a Master of Arts in International Studies and a Master of Public Administration from the University of Washington.

Sohara Monaghan

Sohara Monaghan is a Senior Performance Auditor for the Washington State Auditor's Office. Sohara has led several performance audits that address statewide-policy and social service issues such as: improving safety and preventing payment errors in supported living programs, implementation of debt-offset programs to help collect delinquent debt, public records requests and statewide tolling. During her career with state government, Sohara has also led the design and implementation of training, staff development and quality assurance programs. Sohara has a Master's in Business Administration and is a Certified Fraud Examiner.

Latham Stack

Latham Stack is the internal auditor for the State of Oregon Department of Education. He has over sixteen years experience as a program auditor in non-profit and governmental organizations, and a Masters Degree in environmental chemistry. In addition to performance auditing, Stack has ten years experience leading federally-funded research on stormwater system adaptation to climate change. He will be presenting a statistical method that he used several thousand times for his climate work, and recently in an audit for his previous employer, Washington County, Oregon. Stack is a C.I.A. and C.G.A.P.

Drummond Kahn

Drummond Kahn, M.S., CIA, CGFM, CGAP, has served as Director of Audit Services in the Portland City Auditor's Office since 2005. Drummond joined the profession in 1990, and served in federal, state, and local government. His auditing roles include Chief of Audit Services for the Oregon Department of Transportation and State Audit Administrator for the Oregon Secretary of State Audits Division. Drummond began his career in the U.S. Government Accountability Office. He served as national president of the Association of Local Government Auditors (2012-13), received AGA's Frank Greathouse Distinguished Leadership Award (2013) and is a member of the Comptroller General's Advisory Council on Government Auditing Standards (2009-2016). In 2014, he was named one of the Top 15 Most Influential Professionals in Government Auditing by the IIA's American Center for Government Auditing. Drummond holds a Master's degree from the University of Oregon and a Bachelor's degree from Whitman College.

Colleen Rose

Colleen Rose is the Communications Manager with the Office of the Auditor General of British Columbia. She is a marketing and communications professional with 15+ years of experience in government, education, health, recreation and tourism.

Seven years ago, she joined OAGBC as the inaugural communications team member. Now a team of three, she's enjoyed the growing integration that communications shares with audit, particularly conveying audit results to the media and general public to have the greatest impact.

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Selected one of “20 industry leaders under age 40” by a national post-secondary industry association, and recognized in a North American recreation trade publication for best practices in effective communication,

Colleen has an MBA from Royal Roads University and is passionate about developing realistic communications that reach the desired audience.

Adam Wilson

Adam Wilson is the Deputy Director for Communications at the Washington State Auditor’s Office.

Adam loves talking about public policy with the public. He recently helped his agency oppose and overturn a major budget cut by communicating the value of audits with decision makers, the public and media, He has also helped the agency deploy new communication strategies in social media and video. He joined the State Auditor’s Office in 2013, helping the Performance Audit team deliver understandable, compelling and relevant reports.

Previously, he worked as a communications specialist in the Washington State Senate and as a speechwriter for former Gov. Chris Gregoire. He covered public policy and state government issues as a political reporter in Washington and Idaho.

Zane Kelly

Zane Kelly joined JLARC in 2015 from the UW Applied Physics Lab where he was a postdoctoral researcher. He also taught statistics and research methods at North Seattle College and Seattle University. His experience includes quantitative consulting, institutional research, and two years as an analyst for the US Department of Defense. He has extensive research experience in applied econometrics, political economy, public finance, and international relations. From 2009-10 he was a GAGE fellow at the Miller Center of Public Affairs at the University of Virginia. Zane’s educational background includes a bachelor’s degree in Political Science from the University of Washington and both master’s and doctoral degrees from the University of Colorado, Boulder in Political Science.

Brian D. Miller

Brian D. Miller is a shareholder in the Washington, D.C. office, of Rogers Joseph O’Donnell, where he advises clients on a wide range of regulatory and compliance matters including procurement and healthcare fraud, congressional investigations and inquiries, and responding to government investigations, audits, and reviews. He also serves as a corporate compliance monitor. With over 27 years of experience as a federal prosecutor, Senate-confirmed inspector general, and civil litigator, Brian’s experience is unique. For example, he has represented a federal magistrate judge and the Attorney General in civil litigation. He has also personally issued grand jury subpoenas, signed inspector general subpoenas, and received testimony from civil investigative demands—something very few, if any, other attorneys have done. For nearly the last decade, Brian served as the Inspector General for the U.S. General Services Administration where he led over 300 auditors, special agents, attorneys, and support staff in conducting

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nationwide government audits and high profile investigations. As Inspector General, Brian is well known for his report on the excesses at a GSA conference in Las Vegas, but he also created a forensic auditing unit, developed a leading contractor disclosure program, and increased recoveries from complex False Claims Act cases. Brian frequently testified before Congress regarding his investigations and audits. Earlier in Brian's career, he held several high level positions within the U.S. Department of Justice, including senior counsel to the deputy attorney general and special counsel on healthcare fraud. He served as an Assistant United States Attorney for over a decade, where he prosecuted terrorists, fraudsters, and drug kingpins.