

2024 Wind Institute Research Symposium Speaker Bios

Tim Sullivan, CEO, NJEDA

Tim Sullivan is the Chief Executive Officer of the NJEDA. Under his leadership, the NJEDA has led the development and implementation of more than 15 programs created under the Economic Recovery Act of 2020, provided more than \$700 million in COVID-19 relief to small businesses impacted by the pandemic, facilitated the construction of the NJ Wind Port and growth of a robust offshore wind industry in New Jersey, collaborated with partners in the private sector to grow New Jersey's innovation ecosystem, and helped municipalities revitalize brownfields and other underused spaces into valuable community assets. Tim's previous experiences include positions as Deputy Commissioner of the Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development, and Chief of Staff to the New York City Deputy Mayor for Economic Development. Prior to joining government, Tim worked at Barclays Capital as Chief of Staff to the Head of Global Investment Banking, and as an investment banker at Lehman Brothers. Tim is a graduate of Georgetown University.

Ahmed Chaudry, Manager, Wind Institute

Ahmed Chaudry is currently a Manager at the Wind Institute for Innovation and Training where he leads NJEDA's offshore wind research, innovation, education, and workforce development programming. Prior to joining NJEDA, Ahmed worked at the NYC Mayor's Office of Climate & Environmental Justice where he managed public-private partnerships and led policy development for the city's green economy initiatives, including in climate education, climate entrepreneurship, and talent development. Ahmed brings over eight years of experience in designing and delivering workforce development occupational training and apprenticeship programs through his prior roles as Program Manager for Green Construction/Industrial trainings and as Director of Implementation for workforce programs at the NYC Department of Small Business Services. Ahmed holds a M.S. in Global Affairs with a Concentration in Environment/Energy Policy from New York University.

Dr. A. Tamika Quick, Assistant Secretary, Academic and Student Support Programs, New Jersey Office of the Secretary of Higher Education

Dr. Alberta "Tamika" Quick is a first-generation college student born in Harlem, New York City, and raised in Passaic, NJ. She began her academic pursuits at Ramapo College of New Jersey as an EOF c/o 99 Scholar, graduating with a B.A. in Marketing and Communications. She has an M.A. in Counseling with a concentration in Student Affairs Personnel from Montclair State University and an Ed. D. in Educational Leadership from Saint Peter's University.

Over the last nineteen years, Dr. Quick's areas of expertise have involved student activities, fraternity and sorority life, women's empowerment, and diversity education. In her different roles, she has had various experiences working with culturally diverse student, faculty, and staff populations. As an authentic leader, she believes her experiences provide her with extensive opportunities in strategic planning, coalition building and collaboration, and institutional program initiatives.

Dr. Quick's experience in higher education provided her the opportunity to serve as a Board Member for ACE Women's Network NJ for three years. ACE Women's Network – New Jersey is a statewide organization committed to your professional development. As a Board Member, she is dedicated to identifying, developing, encouraging, supporting, linking, and helping advance women in higher education.

Working at institutions of higher learning, along with serving on the ACE Women's Network NJ Board, has encouraged Dr. Quick's growing passion for empowering, advocating, and supporting young women of color. Her experiences have afforded her the opportunity to mentor young women of color pursuing their academic degrees and career trajectories. In mentoring these women, she recognized the importance of providing representation for young women to see Women of Color achieve success.

In the summer of 2019, Dr. Quick was chosen by the NJ Secretary of Higher Education to participate in the Safe and Inclusive Learning Environment Working Group, part of Where Opportunity Meets Innovation: A Student-Centered Vision for New Jersey Higher Education. They were charged to assist with establishing best practices for creating campus safety and inclusive environments in the State of New Jersey and produced a guidebook with policies, practices, and procedures that promote and maintain a safe and inclusive learning environment of safety, diversity, and inclusion.

Last but certainly not least, Tamika is also the proud mother of two teenage children A'Janae & Amir Murray.

Bailey Wild, Program Specialist, Clean Energy Division, New Jersey Board of Public Utilities

Bailey Wild is a program specialist at the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities, specializing in environmental matters within the offshore wind team. He graduated from Lafayette College with a B.S. in Geology. Prior to his current role, Bailey worked as an Environmental Consultant.

Caitlin McGarigal, Research Scientist, Division of Science and Research, New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection

Caitlin McGarigal contributes to the administration and operation of the New Jersey Offshore Wind Research and Monitoring Initiative. In her role as a Research Scientist, she engages in regional research coordination efforts and is a Project Manager responsible for developing & implementing of baseline and impact assessment studies of offshore wind development on marine and coastal resources. Her research background has primarily focused on marine fish spatial ecology, behavior, and physiology – particularly of game fishes and elasmobranchs, and she has conducted research around the US and internationally. She received her B.S. from UMass Dartmouth and M.S. from CSU Long Beach and has worked for several federal agencies and academic institutions throughout her career before her present position in the NJ Department of Environmental Protection, Division of Science and Research.

Laura Hastings, Management and Program Analyst, U.S. Department of Energy Wind Energy Technologies Office

Hired by WETO in March of 2023, Laura came to the office to lead the STEM and Workforce Development efforts. After college, Laura went to Alaska to “check it out” and stayed there, working in environmental policy, for more than 10 years. Missing her birthplace, she returned to the northeast to be with family and raise her children. She comes to WETO by way of Oceantic most recently, and before that, the State of RI’s flagship workforce development program, Real Jobs RI. It was there she crafted many and varied workforce development programs, including registered apprenticeships for commercial fishing, oyster farming, and nursery and landscaping. This position brought with it the watershed moment that the workforce needs of individual employment sectors were as many and varied as the needs of each individual seeking to improve their working experience. Laura has a bachelor’s degree in criminal justice and sociology and is still fascinated her life and career have brought her to the U.S. Department of Energy.

Kris Ohleth, Director, Special Initiative on Offshore Wind

Kris Ohleth has worked in the offshore wind sector for over 20 years, since the days of the industry’s inception in the United States, and is a true expert in the field. Holding senior positions with offshore wind developers, NGOs, and state agencies, she has gained critical insights into the policy and regulations that shape offshore wind activities at the state, regional, and federal levels. She has worked at the critical intersection of market development, stakeholder engagement, permitting, and regulatory affairs as one of the earliest adopters of and advocates for offshore wind in the US.

In her current role as the Director of the Special Initiative on Offshore Wind, she leads the organization to develop and implement strategies that support the responsible and sustainable development of the offshore wind sector. Originally from New Jersey, she is a Rutgers University graduate, has a Master’s degree from the University of Rhode Island, and currently lives in Morris County, New Jersey with her husband and retired-racing greyhounds.

Lyndie Hice-Dunton, Executive Director, National Offshore Wind Research and Development Consortium

Lyndie Hice-Dunton is the Executive Director of the National Offshore Wind Research and Development Consortium (Consortium). The Consortium, established in 2018, is a not-for-profit public-private partnership focused on advancing offshore wind technology in the United States through high impact research projects and cost-effective and responsible development to maximize economic benefits. Dr. Hice-Dunton is a marine scientist with a multidisciplinary background in marine ecology, environmental policy, and offshore development which has allowed her to work closely with state and federal regulatory agencies, researchers, offshore wind developers and other industry representatives to identify the best science-based approaches that directly respond to technical barriers faced by the offshore wind industry and support research and technology innovation.

Tricia Perez, Research Project Manager, Responsible Offshore Science Alliance

Tricia Perez recently joined the Responsible Offshore Science Alliance (ROSA) as their Research Project Manager. Tricia leads regional research coordination efforts and will develop, lead, and issue regional fisheries and offshore wind research through a Requests for Proposals on behalf of ROSA. Tricia joins ROSA from the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Wind Energy Technologies Office where she supported the offshore wind environmental and community engagement portfolios. She began with DOE as a NOAA Sea Grant Knauss Marine Policy Fellow in 2022. She holds a Masters in Fisheries Oceanography from the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth, School for Marine Science and Technology (SMAST) and served as a Northeast Fisheries Observer for 3 years throughout New England.

Judith Sheft, Executive Director, New Jersey Commission on Science, Innovation and Technology

Judith Sheft is the executive director of the New Jersey Commission on Science, Innovation and Technology. The commission's mission is to accelerate economic development in New Jersey through science, innovation and technology, including stimulating academic-industrial collaboration and encouraging and supporting entrepreneurs and inventors. Previously, she was involved with regional economic and cluster development, with responsibilities at the New Jersey Innovation Institute at New Jersey Institute of Technology for the HealthIT Connections entrepreneurial cluster development program, the NJIT I-Corps Site and the Procurement Technical Assistance Center. She has been engaged with technology, IP innovation and commercialization efforts, working with faculty and students to create startup companies and establish licensing relationships with corporate partners. She advised external startups at NJIT's high technology/life sciences business accelerator/incubator. She is on the board of advisors of the NJIT Murray Women's Center and serves as a mentor and coach to students and faculty. She is a former member of the NJ-Israel Commission and serves on the board of the Greater Newark Enterprises Corp., StartUp Newark, the Women's Center for Entrepreneurship Corporation, Einstein's Alley, SheTek, R&D Council of NJ, and the NJ Big Data Alliance. She was a co-chair of Gov. Phil Murphy's transition advisory committee for Technology Government and Innovation in 2017.

Vincent A. Smeraglia, Executive Director, New Ventures Office for Research, Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey

Vincent A. Smeraglia, Esq. is the Executive Director, New Ventures, leading a team focused on launching, providing support and entrepreneurial resources for Rutgers start-up companies. Vince previously led the Rutgers University Biomedical Innovation Cores and Executive Director, University Core Facilities. Prior to that, Mr. Smeraglia was the Executive Director of the Rutgers office of Technology Commercialization overseeing patenting and licensing of Rutgers inventions. Last year he partnered with NIIMBL to stage an international conference of biomanufacturing. Mr. Smeraglia was also the Executive Director of the UMDNJ Office of Technology Transfer & Business Development. He has also

conducted biomedical research at Cytogen Corporation, developing antibody conjugates for diagnostic and therapeutic clinical uses. Mr. Smeraglia has a B.S. in Biochemistry from Rutgers and a Masters of Intellectual Property and J.D. from the University of New Hampshire Law School.

Arturo Villegas, Chief Executive Officer, XPEED Turbine Technology

Dr. Arturo Villegas is the Co-Founder and Chief Executive Officer of XTT. Dr. Villegas is the co-inventor of the XTT aerodynamic deflector technology. He received his PhD degree in Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering in May 2014 from Rutgers University (NJ). Dr. Villegas' main research of interest is fluid dynamics. This includes the study of wings and wind turbine aerodynamics, particle image velocimetry, Navier-Stokes equations, wind and water tunnel experiments, turbulent flows and electrokinetics. Dr. Villegas has published 8 journal publications on top scientific journals and 7 conference papers presented on main fluid dynamics conferences. His research has been funded by DOT, CAIT (Rutgers), and NSF.

Pankaj Lal, Director, Clean Energy and Sustainability Analytics Center and Professor, Energy Economics & Sustainability, Montclair State University

Dr. Pankaj Lal, is Founding Director of Clean Energy and Sustainability Analytics Center and Professor of Energy, Economics, and Sustainability at Montclair State University. A Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers and NSF CAREER awardee, he conducts research that explores interconnections among energy, technology, environment and society. He leads energy, technology and sustainability research, education and workforce development initiatives, including offshore wind initiatives, at the university, which benefit from close collaborations with government, industry, academia and NGOs. He has long standing research support and engagement in practice and received more than \$21 million for his research from federal and state agencies, multilateral institutions, industry, and foundations. He also acted as a reviewer for the Fourth National Climate Assessment under the U.S. Global Change Research Program. He received his PhD from the University of Florida and MBA and MA degree from India. He has published more than 100 scholarly articles in peer-reviewed journals, technical reports and book chapters and made more than 170 professional presentations and mentored 19 doctoral students and 6 post-doctoral fellows.

Sevdalin Semov, CEO, SWIND POWER

Sev Semov, originally from Bulgaria, is an Industrial Designer with a fervent commitment to innovation in green and sustainable wind energy. He spearheads the development of a groundbreaking project called Swind, which seamlessly integrates unique design perspectives with scientific principles to produce clean energy. With a portfolio spanning numerous projects of varying scales, Sev has honed his skills in solving aesthetic and engineering challenges on a daily basis.

As an entrepreneur in the wind industry, Sev is driven by a passion for creating positive change through energy solutions. He champions the implementation of wind energy to benefit communities and is dedicated to exploring the intersection of business and science on a global scale. With a demonstrated ability to inspire and lead through creativity, Sev is committed to educating others about the transformative potential of wind energy. He also collaborates closely with Montclair State University,

enriching his endeavors with academic insights and research partnerships to further enhance and development and implement of wind energy solutions.

His dynamic approach seeks to bring balance and explore new frontiers in wind energy, leveraging expertise while integrating elements of history and life into his projects. Sev's refreshing perspective, blending artistry with scientific innovation, makes him a unique and influential figure in the STEM-dominated field of wind energy.

Aina Yadav, Project Officer, Wind Institute

Aina Yadav is the project officer for the Wind Institute at the New Jersey Economic Development Authority. In her current role, she manages the Fellowship Program where she is able to work closely with NJ universities and its students, while also creating close relationships with partners in the offshore wind industry. Prior to her role at the NJEDA, Aina worked at Bayshore Regional Sewerage Authority as a lab technician where she was able to develop technical skills and expand on her knowledge of NJDEP regulations. In addition, she was also an environmental consultant for Vertex Companies, Inc conducting mostly field work. Aina is a graduate of Ramapo College of New Jersey and later earned her masters from Montclair State University.