Elsie Hillman Civic Forum

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University of Pittsburgh Institute of Politics

**Never a Spectator Event**

**March 15, 2018**

**Connolly Ballroom at Alumni Hall**

**Agenda**

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| 4:00 pm to 4:30 pm |  | **Registration and Meet and Greet** |
| 4:30 pm to 4:40 pm |  | **Welcome and Opening Remarks**  Mark Nordenberg, Chancellor Emeritus & Chair of the Institute of Politics |
| 4:40 pm to 4:55 pm |  | **Leadership – “The Elsie Way**”  John Denny, Principal, Denny Civic Solutions |
| 4:55 pm to 5:10 pm |  | **What is the Elsie Hillman Civic Forum?**  Megan Soltesz, Deputy Director of the Elsie Hillman Civic Forum |
| 5:10 pm to 5:40 pm |  | **Courageous and Ethical Leadership in a Polarized World**  Grant Oliphant, President, The Heinz Endowments |
| 5:40 pm to 6:00 pm |  | **Networking and Dinner Break** |
| 6:00 pm to 7:20 pm |  | **Community Mentor Civic Engagement Sessions**   * 6:00 – 6:20 Round Table Discussion – Session I * 6:30 – 6:50 Round Table Discussion – Session II * 7:00 – 7:20 Round Table Discussion – Session III |
| 7:20 pm to 7:30 pm |  | **Closing Remarks**  Dr. Edith Shapira, Chair of the Board of Directors, The Pittsburgh Foundation |
| 7:30 pm to 8:00 pm |  | **Reception and Mixer** |

# Keynote Presentation

## Grant Oliphant

Grant Oliphant is president of The Heinz Endowments. He rejoined the foundation in 2014, after serving as president and chief executive officer of The Pittsburgh Foundation for six years. For nearly two decades, Grant held several senior management posts with Heinz family foundations, including vice president for programs and planning at the Endowments, his position before taking over the helm at The Pittsburgh Foundation in 2008. He also served as press secretary to the late U.S. Sen. John Heinz from 1988 until the senator’s death in 1991.

Grant was The Pittsburgh Foundation’s fourth head in its 66-year history and led a major transformation in the organization’s engagement of key constituents, its efficient stewardship of its assets, and the development of groundbreaking initiatives to enhance services for donors and maximize grantmaking impact in the regional community.

This included the launch of The Pittsburgh Promise scholarship program for students in the city’s district and charter schools, and the development of PittsburghGives, an online giving and research portal that raised $13.5 million in two years for local nonprofits with special Day of Giving events. Both of these programs have become national models for similar initiatives by other community foundations and fundraising organizations across the U.S.

In 2009, The Pittsburgh Foundation achieved a landmark in its history under Grant’s leadership with the formation of the Legacy Fund, creating for the first time a vehicle for the foundation to invest its own assets. Until that time, the foundation had delegated its asset management to outside organizations.

In less than four years after Grant’s appointment, The Pittsburgh Foundation and its supporting organizations had received new funds, gifts to existing funds and other charitable donations of more than $150 million. During his tenure, the number of funds grew by nearly 50 percent, and the foundation had more than 1,600 donor funds and assets of more than $820 million. Strategic development also included the realignment of The Pittsburgh Foundation’s grantmaking and the partnership merger with the Community Foundation of Westmoreland County in 2010.

Grant frequently leads community conversations around critical issues such as public school reform, civic design, the ongoing sustainability of anchor institutions, domestic violence, riverfront development and various socio-economic concerns. He has taken a prominent role in building advocacy programs to support the work of local nonprofits and the families and individuals they serve. He serves extensively on the boards of local nonprofit and national sector organizations, including the Center for Effective Philanthropy, which he chairs.

Grant is a past board chairman of Riverlife, which works to transform Pittsburgh’s riverfronts, as well as a board member of the Pittsburgh Cultural Trust, which oversees the city’s celebrated Cultural District; The Allegheny Conference on Community Development; and the Pittsburgh Advisory Board of the Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland.

In addition, Grant has served on the boards of Grantmakers Evaluation Network, Pennsylvania Partnership for Children, and the National Children’s Book and Literacy Alliance, and as board chairman of the Communications Network, a nonprofit membership organization that promotes strategic use of communications as part of effective philanthropy.

Grant originally joined The Heinz Endowments in 1993 as director of communications for the foundation, the Heinz Family Philanthropies, and Endowments Chairman Teresa Heinz. After holding several senior positions, he became vice president of programs and planning and was responsible for managing the Endowments’ $70-plus million annual grantmaking portfolio. He also led special task forces promoting civic design, school reform and stronger links between environmental stewardship and economic development. He was responsible for strategic planning and led the organization’s board and staff through a major review and refocus of its strategic orientation and grantmaking priorities. As a corporate officer, he served on the Endowments’ Investment and Budget committees, which guided management of the foundation’s assets and expenditures.

Prior to his service as press secretary for Sen. Heinz, Grant was founding editor of American Politics, a monthly political magazine. Grant received a Master of Science degree in organizational development from Pepperdine University’s Graziadio School of Business and a Bachelor of Arts from Swarthmore College. He lectures frequently on communications, leadership and organizational dynamics.

# Community Mentors

**Mr. Aerion Abney**

Former Program Officer  
POISE Foundation

**The Honorable Albert “Chip” Abramovic**Commissioner  
Venango County

**Ms. Samantha Balbier**Executive Director  
Greater Pittsburgh Nonprofit Partnership

**Ms. Diana Bucco**President  
The Buhl Foundation

**Ms. Esther Bush**

President and CEO

Urban League of Greater Pittsburgh

**Mr. G. Reynolds Clark**

Former Vice Chancellor and Special Assistant to the Chancellor

University of Pittsburgh

**Mr. John Denny**

Chair, Elsie Hillman Civic Forum

Principal, Denny Civic Solutions

**The Honorable Hal English**

Member

PA House of Representatives

**Commander Eric Holmes**Commander  
City of Pittsburgh, Bureau of Police

**Mr. Ronald Kaufman**

Senior Strategic Advisor and Independent Consultant

McKenna Long & Aldridge LLP

**Ms. BJ Leber**

President and CEO

Adagio Health

**Ms. Kathy McCauley**

Manager of Strategic Planning  
Allegheny County Department of Human Services

**Mr. Wasi Mohamed**Executive Director

Islamic Center of Pittsburgh

**Mr. Mark Nordenberg**

Chair, Institute of Politics,   
Chancellor Emeritus, University of Pittsburgh

**Ms. Soo Song**First Assistant U.S. Attorney  
Western District of Pennsylvania

**Rabbi Ronald B.B. Symons**Senior Director of Jewish Life  
Jewish Community Center of Greater Pittsburgh

**Ms. LaToya Warren**Assistant Deputy Director, Forensic Services  
Allegheny County Department of Human Services

**The Honorable Jake Wheatley**  
Member  
PA House of Representatives

# Mentor Biographies

## Aerion Abney

Aerion Andrew Abney is a native of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. In 2010, he received his undergraduate degree in Communications with a minor in Theatre Arts from the University of Pittsburgh. Upon completion of his undergraduate degree, he continued his education and received his Masters of Social Work also from the University of Pittsburgh. He chose social work because he is dedicated to a life of service and making a positive difference in the lives of others and their overall well-being. His ultimate goal as a social leader is to raise the bar of acquired knowledge, while at the same time closing the gap of ignorance. Currently, he lives his professional life at the intersection of philanthropy and politics.

Aerion is politically engaged within the City of Pittsburgh having served as a Committeeman for the 21st Ward 4th District. His background and interests are in workforce training, community development, and social and economic justice. He currently sits on the boards of: Community Human Services Inc., Hill District Federal Credit Union, and Human Services Center Corporation, as well as the advisory board for the African American Achievement Trust Collective Focus. Additionally, he serves on the City of Pittsburgh and Allegheny County’s My Brother’s Keeper taskforce an initiative to create action plans around the opportunity gaps that impact young men and boys of color.

As a candidate for State Representative, Aerion seeks to support anti-displacement strategies geared towards ensuring residents have a fair opportunity to remain in their neighborhoods as communities continue to develop. Additionally, he seeks to support the highest educational opportunities for students so that they are prepared to excel in the 21st-century workforce. He is dedicated to criminal justice reform strategies that provide second chances for non-violent offenders to become reintegrated productive citizens within society. Aerion is a proven visionary and strategic leader that organized a citywide community and police relations event to redefine how community and police build positive interactions and safer neighborhoods. As a community organizer, he has years of experience working to bring people together around issues that they care about most. He plans to continue to use his community organizing skills to advocate for marginalized people.

## Albert Abraumovic

Albert “Chip” Abramovic serves as a Venango County Commissioner and the president of Penn North Financial Services. He is actively involved in county, regional, and statewide boards, pertaining to workforce development, economic development, human services, and agriculture. Venago County provides critical services to 55,000 county residents and has an operating budget of $52 million per year. Commissioner Abramovic led initiatives to create workforce-focused development in the agriculture industry, bring awareness to the ever-growing opioid epidemic, and develop new ideas to lower recidivism in Venango County jail.

He acquired Penn North Financial Services in summer of 2015 and provides financial products and services to his clients. Commissioner Abramovic graduated from Robert Morris University with a B.S. in Finance. He sits on the County Commissioners’ Agriculture Committee, Natural Gas Task Force, Northwest Regional Commission, Northwest Workforce Development Board, and regional Farm Bureau.

In his free time, he helps his family out at his family’s golf course, Sleep Hollow Golf Course, and enjoys helping and engaging with the local and regional community.

## Samantha Balbier

Samantha is the Executive Director for the Greater Pittsburgh Nonprofit Partnership (GPNP), which includes over 450 regional nonprofit members. She has a demonstrated track record in policy analysis, development, strategic communications, and building collaborations across sectors. She is passionate about the nonprofit sector’s role and value in building strong communities and is committed to building partnerships between nonprofit disciplines to positively impact the region. Under her leadership, GPNP was awarded the Innovation in Education by Mental Health of America for its 2016 Behavioral Health Policy Cohort.

Prior to GPNP, she served as the designer and Lead Consultant for the nationally award-winning Pennsylvania Early Childhood Education (ECE) Healthy & Green Initiative, which involved working with the Heinz Endowments and several Pennsylvania State Government Departments to build a system that emphasizes environmental health in Pennsylvania’s early childhood programs. Pennsylvania won the Excellence in Environmental Protection Award from the Children’s Environmental Health Network for this work. Prior to this engagement, Samantha was the special projects and development director at Carriage House Children’s Center where she successfully implemented an ambitious capital campaign and was a key team member in the organization’s pursuit of a gold LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) US Green Building Council certification.

Samantha also has experience as a nonprofit executive director at Healthy Home Resources where she developed a HUD national demonstration program, an asthma trigger reduction program. She served as a consultant to the Allegheny Department of Human Services’ Office of Community Services and as a Program Associate at The Heinz Endowments for Children, Youth and Families. Sam has a Master’s Degree from the University of Pittsburgh’s School of Social Work in Community Organizing and Public Policy, as well as Bachelor’s Degrees from Mercyhurst College in Social Work, and Business and Marketing. She is certified by the US Green Building Council Institute as a LEED Green Associate and as an instructor in this specialty for the PA Quality Assurance System for the PA Office of Child Development and Early Learning/PA Key.

## Diana Bucco

Diana Bucco is the President of The Buhl Foundation where she has led the revisioning of the Foundation’s new strategy and approach to philanthropy, including its focus on community-driven neighborhood revitalization. Prior, she was the President of The Forbes Funds, a Pittsburgh-based organization that supports nonprofit capacity-building through grantmaking, research, and leadership development. During her tenure, The Forbes Funds became a leader in supporting Strategic Restructuring, Fiscal Modeling and Advocacy on behalf of the nonprofit sector. She also launched the Greater Pittsburgh Nonprofit Partnership, a coalition of 350 nonprofit organizations that have joined together to create a unified voice for the sector.

Previously she was the founding executive director of the Coro Center for Civic Leadership and The Mentoring Partnership of Southwestern Pennsylvania, and the executive director of Pennsylvania Campus Compact. She is a Trustee of Point Park University and serves on the Boards of the Pennsylvania Economy League of Greater Pittsburgh, Carnegie Science Center, Riverlife, YouthPlaces, Advancing Academics, A+ Schools, and is a member of the International Women’s Forum. She serves on the County’s Homeless Advisory Board and the Allegheny Partners for Out of School Time Advisory Board. She serves the Commonwealth through the Children’s Trust Fund Board and nationally on the board of Global Ties USA. She has been recognized throughout her career for her accomplishments including the YWCA Tribute to Women, Spirit of Amelia Earhart Award by Zonta Club of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh Magazine’s 40 under 40, Coro’s MLK, Jr. Leadership Award and was the recipient of a German Marshall Fellowship. She was also recognized by the state as one of the top ten of the GenX generation.

## Esther Bush

Since 1994, under Esther L. Bush’s leadership as President and CEO, the Urban League of Greater Pittsburgh has ranked as a top performing affiliate three times in succession. In February 2013, Ms. Bush was among ten Americans recognized at the White House as a Champion of Change in educational excellence for African Americans. She was appointed by Governors to serve on the: Pennsylvania State Board of Education, PA Commission for Crime and Delinquency, Law Enforcement and Community Relations Task Force, the Commission on Academic Standards, and the Voting Modernization Task Force. She is the founder of the Urban League of Greater Pittsburgh Charter School.

Ms. Bush graduated from Morgan State (BS) and Johns Hopkins (MS) Universities. She received Honorary Doctorates from the University of Hartford, Carlow College, and Allegheny College. Her career includes working as a high school teacher, college administrator, and corporate consultant. She has progressed in leadership since joining the Urban League movement in 1980, from Assistant Director, Labor Education Advancement Program for the National Urban League, to Borough Director of both the Staten Island and Manhattan Branches of the New York Urban League, to President of the Urban League of Greater Hartford before returning to her hometown. She is the first female to serve in each of her last four positions.

## G. Reynolds Clark

Gordon Reynolds (Renny) Clark is a native of Western Pennsylvania and a 1965 graduate of Geneva College, from which he received the Alumni Association's Distinguished Service Award in 1990 and the College's highest award, the Life "G" in 2005. He served on the college's Board of Trustees for over 20 years, stepping down in 2014. Upon graduation from college, Mr. Clark began his career as a professional staff member of the Boy Scouts of America. He then joined the former Westinghouse Electric Corporation in 1966; from where he retired in April 2000 after a 34-year career during which he rose to serve as Chairman of the Westinghouse Foundation with responsibilities for corporate philanthropy and community sponsorship programs. He served as veteran of the Pennsylvania Army National Guard from 1965 to 1973 and attained the rank of 1st Lieutenant as a field artillery officer.

Renny and his wife, Linda, reside in the City of Pittsburgh. They have two grown children and a grandson. Formerly they resided in Franklin Park, a suburb of Pittsburgh where he served as the Mayor for five years and was a 30-year veteran of the Franklin Park Volunteer Fire Company where he served as Fire Chief for 18 years and prior to that as Assistant Fire Chief for 11 years. Upon his retirement as Fire Chief, the fire company bestowed upon him the permanent title of Fire Chief Emeritus, the first in the company's 90+ year history. He was also a Board Member and Secretary of the McCandless-Franklin Park Ambulance Authority, where he chaired the annual fund drive campaign and served as the Emergency Management Coordinator for the Borough from 1980 to 2008.

Mr. Clark has served on the boards of numerous cultural, civic and community organizations. He currently serves on the boards of: Advisory Board of the Salvation Army of Southwestern Pennsylvania, Family House, Laurel Highlands Council -Boy Scouts of America, Jumonville Foundation, Pittsburgh CLO (musical theater), Allegheny County Parks Foundation, and the United Methodist Foundation of Western Pennsylvania. He serves as Chair of the Boards of Pittsburgh Gateways Corporation and the Regional Industrial Development Corporation.

In August 2000, Mr. Clark joined the senior administrative team at the University of Pittsburgh where he rose to the position of Vice Chancellor for External Relations and Chief of Staff in the Office of the Chancellor with responsibilities for governmental relations, local economic and community development initiatives and the daily operations and programs of the Chancellor's office. He retired from the University in July 2015, concluding a 50-year professional career. In May 2016, Mr. Clark was requested by the Board of the Intergovernmental Cooperation Authority to serve as Interim Executive Director and help lead the Authority through its current period of transition.

## John Denny

John Denny has spent a career transforming ideas into action. From his days as one of the youngest people in the United States to manage a statewide presidential campaign, to his work building an organization that aids at risk-youth and nonprofits, John and his team create results.

Denny works to create positive change by managing civic campaigns and engineering public policy. With decades of hands-on expertise, he knows how to foster an idea from inception to execution. And with his experience as a former national political campaign manager and consultant, he thoroughly understands how to create a message, target its focus, and move audiences to support or oppose an initiative, idea, or piece of legislation.

A constant throughout John’s career has been his work supporting and representing community and political leader Elsie Hillman. He has served as a special assistant and consultant to Mrs. Hillman, as well as director of community relations for the Hillman Company. His work for Mrs. Hillman has spanned three decades and has involved leadership on a broad range of initiatives critical both to her and the community, touching the lives of thousands of people in the process.

A graduate of Carnegie Mellon University’s Heinz College, Denny has garnered his skills through a unique combination of professional endeavors, ranging from corporate communications to grant making in the Pittsburgh foundation and nonprofit communities. With a trifecta of expertise from corporate, political, and nonprofit work, Denny understands the needs, strengths and challenges each party brings to the table and can balance those needs toward positive outcomes. In addition, Denny understands local and statewide government because he has lived it. From that experience, John brings the understanding of the public sector to the forefront of his endeavors.

## Hal English

State Representative Hal English grew up in Olney, Maryland where his first job was a paperboy for three years. Following in his Dad's footsteps, he enlisted in the Marine Corps in 1981 and was commissioned an officer in 1984. He holds a Bachelor's degree from West Virginia University and a Juris Doctorate from the University of Baltimore. He has been an attorney since 1987 and is licensed in Pennsylvania, Maryland, and West Virginia.

In the Marine Corps, Representative English served as a judge advocate, a prosecutor, a defense counsel, an appellate review officer and a legal assistance attorney. He also served as commanding officer of a Marine Corps truck company. He was activated from 2003 to 2005 and served as site commander and judge advocate of the Johnstown Aviation Unit. In 2012, after 30 years of service, he retired from the Marine Corps Reserve at the rank of lieutenant colonel.

In 1998, Representative English established his own law firm, H.A. English & Associates. He continues to practice law in areas of his past experience, with an emphasis on elder law. He has been active in both professional and community volunteer work, for example as chairperson of the Sole and Small Firm section of the Allegheny County Bar Association, president of the Hampton Rotary Club, and treasurer of the Hampton Community Association. He has been recognized by the Northern Area Chamber of Commerce as Businessman of the Year and as Citizen of the Year by the Pine Creek Journal.

In 2012, Representative English was elected State Representative of Pennsylvania's 30th legislative district. He is in his third term in the State House of Representatives and represents over 60,000 residents in the Allegheny County communities of Hampton, Shaler, Richland, Fox Chapel, and O'Hara. He is assigned to the House Education, Game and Fisheries, Insurance and Judiciary committees.

Representative English is a resident of Hampton Township and a parishioner of St. Paul's. He's been married to Sue Killinger of Shaler for 30 years and they have 2 sons, age 23 and 19. State

Representative

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## Eric Holmes

Eric Holmes, has served the City of Pittsburgh as an accomplished and respected law enforcement officer for over twenty years, currently holding the rank of commander and serving as the Pittsburgh Bureau of Police Chief of Staff and Executive Officer. Holmes earned his B.A. degree in Communications from Slippery Rock University in 1993. He was appointed by the Clinton administration to The White House Intern Program, and is currently enrolled in the Masters of Criminology Program at Point Park University.

Holmes served as President of the Slippery Rock University Alumni Association from 2005 - 2007. In July of 2009 former Governor Ed Rendell appointed Holmes to the Slippery Rock University Council of Trustees where he served from 2009 to 2013. In 2012 Holmes was named one of 50 men of Excellence by New Pittsburgh Courier.

He belongs to a number of professional and volunteer activities (past and present) to include Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences, Association of Governing Boards, Boy Scouts of America Rights of Passage 2010, Pittsburgh Regional Champions, Leadership Pittsburgh LDI XVIII, World Affairs Council of Pittsburgh Board of Directors, Robert Morris University Criminal Justice and Sociology Advisory Committee, the YWCA Community Board of Directors, and the City of Pittsburgh Human Relations Commission.

In June of 2008, the Eric L. Holmes Criminal Justice Scholarship was established at Slippery Rock University.

## Ronald Kaufman

Ron Kaufman is a Senior Advisor in the Public Policy and Regulation practice at Dentons. He focuses on providing government affairs services to public and private sector clients nationwide.

Mr. Kaufman is a highly experienced political strategist who has served as a senior advisor to US Presidents, Governors, Members of Congress, and a host of elected and appointed officials at every level of government. After having helped lay the political foundation for his successful 1988 presidential campaign, Mr. Kaufman served in the Administration of President George H.W. Bush, initially as White House Personnel Director and then as Assistant to the President and the White House Political Director. Previously, Mr. Kaufman served President Ronald Reagan as Regional and then National Political Director of the Republican National Committee.

Most recently, Mr. Kaufman served as a senior advisor to Governor Mitt Romney during his 2012 presidential campaign. In addition to his distinguished public service career, Mr. Kaufman has served as chairman of a leading multidisciplinary government affairs firm in Washington, DC.

Mr. Kaufman also serves as elected Republican National Committeeman for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Chair of the RNC Budget committee, and as a member of the Rules Committee, Executive Committee, and Convention Site Selection Committee. He is also active with the Republican Governors Association, where he has served as the Co-Chair of the Finance Committee. Mr. Kaufman continues to serve as an advisor to former President Bush.

Ron is the proud father to daughter Carly and husband Richard, two grandchildren Orin and Paul, and daughter Katie and husband Will.

## BJ Leber

BJ Leber has been President and CEO of Adagio Health for three years. Adagio Health provides health and wellness services to all women with an emphasis on those in need. Services include family planning, nutrition support and counseling, breast and cervical cancer screening and healthy relationship and sexual education. Partnerships with community organizations are providing opportunities to provide services to a broader population including the LGBTQAI+ community, women with opioid addictions, and women veterans. Adagio Health serves 150,000 women a year in Western Pennsylvania.

Ms. Leber is a recognized leader in the field of nonprofit management. She previously served as President and CEO of The Western Pennsylvania Hospital Foundation. In that capacity, she guided the foundation to support significant investments in the hospitals’ efforts to serve local communities. She directed the West Penn Hospital Foundation’s largest gift ever- $20 million to the hospital’s labor & delivery unit.

Prior to her work at the West Penn Hospital Foundation, Ms. Leber served as Interim CEO for the YWCA. She served as Chief of Staff for Pittsburgh Mayor Bob O’Connor. She was VP and Station Manager for WQED Pittsburgh’s Public TV and Radio Stations.

She was appointed by Pennsylvania Governor Tom Wolf to serve as Chair of the Intergovernmental Cooperation Authority, which is charged with overseeing the City of Pittsburgh’s finances. BJ was also appointed by Governor Wolf to oversee the 30-member Pennsylvania Commission on Women.

BJ is member and past president of the Pittsburgh Chapter of the International Women’s Forum. She serves on the National Advisory Council of the Elsie Hillman Civic Advisory Forum at the University of Pittsburgh. She is on the boards of Pittsburgh Community Broadcasting (WESA and WYEP Public Radio Stations), Highmark Caring Foundation, Family Planning Councils of America and is a former board chair of Leadership Pittsburgh, VisitPittsburgh, Brother’s Brother International Foundation and Pressley Ridge Schools.

## Kathy McCauley

Kathy McCauley leads the team responsible for strategic planning, program design, procurement, and legislative affairs for human services in Allegheny County. She joined DHS in 2016 after over 20 years as an independent consultant to local government and community organizations—providing them with planning, research, and writing services.

Ms. McCauley served as the Executive Director of Allegheny County’s Private Industry Council from 1986 to 1992. During her tenure, the U.S. Department of Labor selected the Private Industry Council for a Presidential Award. She moved from the PIC to working as the research coordinator for the Community Health section of Children’s Hospital of Pittsburgh for six years, conducting program evaluations and writing proposals that funded child abuse prevention and community health programs. Her grant writing then and since has raised over $80 million for nonprofit organizations.

Ms. McCauley was a U.S. Presidential Management Intern and has held professional positions with the Illinois Bureau of the Budget and the Massachusetts Department of Public Welfare. She is a graduate of the University of Pittsburgh and Carnegie Mellon University’s Heinz College.

## Wasi Mohamed

Wasiullah (Wasi) Mohamed is an Indian-American who was born in Harrisburg, PA. He moved to Pittsburgh in 2011 to attend the University of Pittsburgh. During his time at Pitt, Wasi spent his four years helping to build the Office of PittServes, an arm of the Division of Student Affairs meant to ensure Pitt has a lasting positive impact on the local community while students grow from relationships and experiences with our neighbors.

After serving as the Director of Islamic Center of Pittsburgh Food Pantry for two years, Wasi was selected to be ICP’s next Executive Director in 2015. In this position, Wasi works to empower, educate, and unite the diverse community in Western PA through social services and outreach programs.

In 2016, he was appointed by Mayor Bill Peduto to the Commission on Human Relations (protecting civil rights) and Welcoming Pittsburgh Commission (encouraging immigrant and refugee inclusion), he was elected chair of the latter. He was appointed by Governor Tom Wolf to serve on the Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs. Also in 2016, Wasi was named the Executive Director of Emgage PA, where he coordinates political education and organizing activities throughout the commonwealth. Mohamed was recently named "40 under 40" by Pittsburgh Magazine and "Who’s Next in Pittsburgh Politics?" by The Incline, the youngest on both lists.

## Mark Nordenberg

Mark Nordenberg joined the faculty of Pitt’s School of Law in 1977. Earlier in his career, he served as Dean of the School of Law and as Interim Provost of the University. In 1995, he was elected Interim Chancellor by the University’s Board of Trustees, and the next year, following a national search, he was elected Chancellor. Nordenberg served in that office for nineteen years and led Pitt through one of the most impressive periods of progress in its 229-year history.

Throughout his career, Nordenberg has been very active in civic affairs and has received many important forms of recognition. Among them, he has been named Pittsburgh’s Person of the Year by Pittsburgh Magazine and a History Maker by the Senator John Heinz History Center.

Reflecting his role as a regional leader in higher education, he has been awarded honorary degrees by Carnegie Mellon University, the Community College of Allegheny County, Duquesne University, LaRoche College and Thiel College.

In 2005, to celebrate the remarkable progress achieved during his first decade as Chancellor, trustees, alumni leaders and other friends contributed $2.5 million to endow a professorship in his name. In 2012, he was again honored when Pitt trustees announced the naming of the Mark A. Nordenberg residence hall and the Nordenberg Leadership Scholarship Fund, supported by more than $6 million in private gifts. Much earlier, Pitt students had named a new social space in their student union “Nordy’s Place” in his honor.

In 2014, Nordenberg and Jared Cohon, President Emeritus of Carnegie Mellon, received the Elsie Hilliard Hillman Lifetime Achievement Award for Excellence in Public Service from the Institute of Politics. After stepping down as Chancellor, he joined the Institute as its Chair and has been particularly involved in its incarceration and opioid initiatives. He serves on the boards of Bank of New York Mellon, BNY Mellon’s Southwestern Pennsylvania Foundation, Manchester Bidwell and UPMC.

## Soo Song

As First Assistant United States Attorney for the Western District of Pennsylvania, Soo C. Song oversees all criminal prosecution and civil and appellate litigation pursued on behalf of the United States in the 25 counties that comprise the Western District of Pennsylvania. From November 2016 through December 21, 2017, Ms. Song served as the Acting United States Attorney for the Western District of Pennsylvania.

Ms. Song has served on the National Heroin Task Force and strengthened protocols for crime victim notification, advocacy and restitution in federal court, including victims of cyber intrusions. Ms. Song helped to establish the Veterans Treatment Court for the Western District of Pennsylvania, one of the first federal courts of its kind. As a federal prosecutor, she principally prosecutes cybercrimes and crimes against children.

Prior to joining the Western District of Pennsylvania in 2004, Ms. Song was an Assistant United States Attorney in the District of Arizona. In Arizona, she prosecuted child sexual assaults and homicides that occurred on the Navajo Indian reservation and was assigned to the Arizona Joint Terrorism Task Force. Ms. Song also served as Deputy Director of the Office of Tribal Justice at the U.S. Department of Justice in Washington, D.C. where she advised Attorney General Janet Reno. Ms. Song is a graduate of Yale University and George Washington Law School.

## Ron Symons

Rabbi Ron Symons serves as the Senior Director of Jewish Life at the Jewish Community Center of Greater Pittsburgh. The JCC serves over 18,000 members and welcomes 1.3 million visits throughout the community every year in Squirrel Hill, South Hills, Monroeville and Morgantown, WV.

Ron leads the Center for Loving Kindness and Civic Engagement, the JCC’s new effort to “Strengthen the fabric of community by amplifying the long held values of ‘love your neighbor as yourself’ and ‘do not stand idle while your neighbor bleeds’ while redefining neighbor from a geographic term to a moral concept.” These efforts are bolstered through long term partnerships with the Heinz Endowments, the Pittsburgh Foundation, he Opportunity Fund and dozens of community organizations who make the work successful.

Ron was trained as a community organizer through the Gamaliel Foundation. Throughout the years, he has joined with community members to strengthen the fabric of community within and beyond the Jewish community. They raised awareness regarding educational excellence for all students in Pittsburgh, not matter their zip codes. They challenged municipal officials regarding the quality of water in and around Pittsburgh as a result of the combined sewer system. They suggested new models for the respectful treatment of seniors living in long term care facilities. When the NRA came to Pittsburgh, they welcomed them with words of faith and protest. As political and economic conversations about living wage and the ‘fight for fifteen’ stalled in Pittsburgh, they challenged the status quo by reshaping the conversation through a sacred morality lens and by engaging in civil disobedience. Ultimately, witnessed the increase of wages for those struggling to get by within the City of Pittsburgh and UPMC.

Through all of these efforts and more, Ron is driven to create intentional community that provides equal access to opportunity for all who embrace the opportunity.

## LaToya Warren

LaToya Warren is the assistant deputy director of forensic services for the Allegheny County Department of Human Services in Pittsburgh, where she plans, implements, and directs criminal justice services to strengthen public safety and achieve better results for people involved in the criminal justice system, people who have been in prison, and community members.

Before working at the Department of Human Services, Warren was deputy warden at the Allegheny County Jail, where she was responsible for ensuring quality, evidence-based rehabilitative programs in the jail and post release.

Warren earned a bachelor’s degree, a master’s degree in social work, and a master’s degree in public administration from the University of Pittsburgh. She also serves as a non-resident fellow with the Urban Institutes’ Justice Policy Center.

## Jake Wheatley

Rep. Jake Wheatley Jr., D-Allegheny, a recognized United States Marine combat veteran of Operation Desert Storm who received the Combat Action Ribbon, National Defense Service Medal and the Kuwaiti Liberation Medal, is a proud resident of the City of Pittsburgh. Rep. Wheatley holds a bachelor's degree in political science from North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University where he graduated with honors. He went on to receive a master's of public administration from the University of Pittsburgh.

He was first elected in 2002 to represent the 19th Legislative District, which includes historic Pittsburgh neighborhoods such as: the Hill District, North Side, South Side, Allentown, Hazelwood, Downtown, the Bluff, Knoxville, Beltzhoover, Manchester, Arlington, Arlington Heights, and West, South and North Oakland, among others.

As a first-term legislator, Rep. Wheatley was identified by a nonpartisan highly recognized political website as one of six rising political stars to watch. In 2005, he was identified by PoliticsPA.com as one of the 100 most influential politicians in the state. Most recently he was identified by a national political magazine as one of three Pennsylvania state representatives to watch as a political star. Rep. Wheatley was the second member ever to be selected to serve on the powerful Appropriations Committee as a first-term legislator.

From his very first day of service, Rep. Wheatley has championed the cause of access and inclusion for all of Pennsylvanians. He has been a stalwart in the Democratic Caucus and in Harrisburg pushing for economic development, mass transit, and true education funding and academic advancements for all children as well as providing leadership on covering every Pennsylvanian with quality, affordable and error-free health care.

Rep. Wheatley is a member of community boards and agencies too numerous to list. To name but a few, he is currently serving on the Board of Trustees of the University of Pittsburgh and the boards of Pittsburgh Downtown Partnership, Point Park University, and Pittsburgh Community Services, Inc., and he is a member of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.

On July 1, 2017, Rep. Wheatley began a three-year term on the Carlow University Board of Trustees. In October of the same year, Wheatley was elected to the board of directors of the Pittsburgh CLO.

Rep. Wheatley relishes his role as a public servant and is committed to being a vehicle for citizens of the 19th Legislative District and throughout the Commonwealth for positive change in the quality of their communities and their lives. He has always believed that he works for those who have sent him to Harrisburg and has used the late Speaker K. Leroy Irvis' statement 'Through us, they speak' as a guiding principle in his daily work. For this same reason, Rep. Wheatley calls his office the People's Office as a daily reminder of this principle to himself, his staff and the people he is honored to serve.