

## Panel 1 – More than just Netflix



### **Tory Flynn, Director of Communications and Public Affairs for Hillenbrand Inc.**

Tory is the Director of Communications and Public Affairs for Hillenbrand, a global diversified industrial company headquartered in Batesville, Ind. Hillenbrand’s portfolio is composed of two business segments: the Process Equipment Group and Batesville Casket. In her role, she oversees Communications, Corporate Giving and Engagement, Sustainability and Government Relations on behalf of the company.

Tory’s previous work experience includes serving as the Spokesperson and Director of Communications for the Indiana House of Representatives, Government Relations for Bristol-Myers Squibb in Washington, D.C., working for U.S. Senator Chuck Hagel, and owning a small business that advised political candidates on marketing and communications.

Personal accomplishments include being nationally recognized for her work with sexual assault victims and was one of two given the Outstanding Service Award on Behalf of Crime Victims in 2017. In addition to being named “35 under 35” by the National Alumni Association for Kappa Alpha Theta, she was also named a finalist for Indy’s Best and Brightest, a member of class XL for the Stanley K Lacy Executive Leadership Series, and was a recipient of the Forty under 40 award by the Indianapolis Business Journal.

Tory received her BA from the University of Nebraska majoring in Political Science and Russian, and her masters in PR Management from Ball State University. She was appointed by Vice President Pence to the State Workforce Innovation Council and was recently named to co-chair a committee studying Rural Workforce with Lt. Gov. Crouch. She also sits on the boards of the Indiana Coalition to End Sexual Assault and the Public Affairs Steering Committee for the National Association for Manufacturers. She resides in Batesville, Ind. with her husband and two young children.



### **Ally Orwig, Project Coordinator, Indiana Rural Health Association.**

Ally Orwig has served IRHA in various capacities since 2011, where her rural health expertise and background have provided essential skills in the success of grant-funded projects and programs. She runs the Indiana Telehealth Network, which provides access to subsidies for high-speed broadband from the FCC, and the Lunch & Learn online, educational programs, and co-directs the Indiana Rural Opioid Consortium Planning initiative. She has experience in network planning/development, network development/implementation and monitoring, conducting community health needs assessments, grant writing, program evaluations, and conference and event planning. In addition to her clinical experience, her work experience includes involvement in many county and regional initiatives that focus on the improvement of local communities.

Ally has participated in the Lt. Governor’s Rural Broadband Working Group, presented on the Healthcare Connect Fund and the Indiana Telehealth Network at several state and national conferences, and provides nationwide consulting

services. She received her Bachelor's degree in English from Indiana State University and her Master's in Business Administration from the University of Southern Indiana.

**Chris Pryor, Vice President of Government & Community Relations, MIBOR Realtors Association.**

Chris has spent 24 years of his life in the real estate industry, joining MIBOR REALTOR® Association (MIBOR) in 1994. He currently serves as the Senior Vice President of Government and Community Relations. MIBOR, the professional association that represents central Indiana's REALTORS®, serves a 12-county region and over 8,000 members.



Chris works as an advocate on housing industry issues and leads the association in engaging in community and economic development initiatives to enhance quality of life in communities across central Indiana. During his tenure with MIBOR, he has also served as the Government Affairs Director Chair of the National Association of REALTORS®.

Chris has served in a variety of additional leadership roles including the Greater Indianapolis Progress Committee (GIPC) Board of Directors, the Central Indiana Regional Development Authority and the Urban Land Institute Advisory Board.

Chris has a Bachelor's Degree in public affairs from Indiana University and is a graduate of the Oklahoma University Economic Development Institute. A lifelong Hoosier, Chris is married to wife Kelly and has two sons, Ethan and Grant. Outside of work he enjoys spending time with family in the outdoors and at his boys' sporting events.

**Sarah Waddle, State Director, AARP Indiana.**

Over the past 13 years, Sarah has served in a variety of roles with AARP Indiana, including the past two years as State Director. In this position she has led Indiana's team efforts to enhance the quality of life for all Hoosiers as we age.



During her time at AARP, Sarah has work alongside volunteers in various capacities expanding awareness and engagement around AARP's issues, programs and activities, building relationships with community and policy leaders, and positioning AARP to be relevant in communities across Indiana. Prior to joining AARP, she spent four at the American Cancer Society working in advocacy and volunteer management. She graduated from Hanover College with a degree in Political Science.

Additionally, Sarah serves as Board Chair of Indiana's 2-1-1 Partnership, the network of statewide entities that facilitate connections between those who need human services and those who provide them and is an appointed member of the Serve Indiana Commission, to advocate, review and adjust the state's position on issues related to community service and volunteer sectors. Sarah calls Indianapolis home, where she lives with her husband and two children.



## Panel 2 – Agribusiness and its intersection with Broadband

### **Justin Schneider, Director of State Government Relations, Indiana Farm Bureau.**

Justin Schneider serves as Director of State Government Relations for Indiana Farm Bureau, Inc. focusing on environmental, natural resource, water, energy and transportation issues. He is responsible for the interaction of legal and public policy issues, and implements strategies to achieve Farm Bureau grassroots policy objectives.

Justin frequently presents legal education programs and provides updates on public policy issues to numerous audiences. Topics include nutrient management, drainage, and environmental regulations. He also has coordinated and presented at numerous continuing legal education programs. He routinely works with outside counsel in providing insight into resolving issues for their clients with state and federal agencies, as well as developing strategy for litigation.

Justin currently serves as immediate past-president of the American Agricultural Law Association. He was honored by the AALA in 2015 with its Excellence in Agricultural Law Award in a non-governmental organization. He is a past chair of the Agricultural Law Section of the Indiana State Bar Association. Justin grew up on a grain and livestock farm which now focuses on corn, soybean and hay production.

### **Sal Sama, Director of Sales and Marketing, Premier Ag.**

Sal Sama, Vice President of Sales & Marketing Premier Ag Cooperative located in southeast Indiana. Premier Ag is a farmer-owned cooperative founded in 1927. Premier provides supplies and services in the agricultural and energy sectors, including liquid fuels, retail fuel, propane, seed, fertilizer, crop protection and retail supply. His responsibilities at Premier Ag also include management of their precision agriculture platform marketed as TRAX.

Sal joined the United States Marine Corps immediately following high school and, working his way through night classes, earned an appointment to the US Naval Academy. Sal has a bachelor's degree in business administration from Ottawa University and is currently pursuing his MBA.

Sal currently serves on the West Washington School Board, is a Trustee of Mt Tabor Christian Church, Director of Kids HOPE USA in Washington County, and is past Chair of the Agribusiness Council of Indiana.

In his free time, Sal enjoys fishing, hunting, operating construction equipment, and spending time with his wife Kim and daughter, Kate.



### **Johnny Park, CEO, Wabash Heartland Innovation Network.**

Johnny is one of the nation's premier agriculture technology entrepreneurs was appointed to the role of CEO only a few short months ago. The founder and former CEO of Spensa Technologies Inc., Johnny raised \$8 million in investments and grants, achieving 98 percent average annual revenue growth in the last five years. Spensa is a precision agriculture company focused on smart IoT devices and data analytics. The company was acquired by Minnesota-based DTN, a global analysis company in March of this year.



### **Adam Garretson, GO Smart Manager, The Equity.**

Adam grew up in Pendleton being involved in agriculture from an early age participating in 4-H and FFA. He received a Bachelor's Degree in Management from the Krannert School of Management, at Purdue University. He began his career as a technology specialist with a John Deere dealership in Elnora, where he learned the hands on applications of GPS and wireless data technology with Ag field equipment.

He then left to join WinField United in southern Minnesota where he worked with a local Ag cooperative to establish a precision Ag platform using different software tools to provide farmers with insights to improve yields and profitability.

In 2015, he began working with *The Equity*, a large Ag cooperative based out of Effingham, IL, and became the manager of the Ag Tech department in March 2017. This opportunity has allowed him to engage with many growers across the Midwest and help them use technology and innovation to make better decisions on their farms.

## Panel 3 – Making it Happen



### **August Zehner, Vice President of Sales and Marketing, Intelligent Fiber Network.**

August has been with IFN since 2010 is currently a Vice President with the company and oversees Sales, Marketing and Business Development. With over 25 years of experience working in a wide variety of technology companies, August enjoys change, and the advances technology can bring. He started his career initially working in the computer industry in the mid-1980s moving into data communications with the start of the internet in the early 1990s. August was the District Manager at Data Processing Science (DPS) where he developed his technical sales knowledge of IP infrastructure and understanding of legacy communications.

August thinks it is exhilarating to be part of the telecommunication industry based on the growth and future positive impact it will have on our lives.

August holds a Bachelor's degree in Marketing from Ball State University and an MBA from Falls School of Business from Anderson University. In his spare time, August is an Adjunct Professor with Anderson University for the past 14 years teaching graduate-level business and marketing night classes. He currently lives in Anderson, Indiana.



### **Dave Brodin, Chief Operating Officer, Smithville Fiber.**

First joining Smithville in 2001 as the company's network operations manager, Brodin was promoted to chief technology officer in 2011, where he was responsible for all aspects of overall Smithville technology vision, network and system design, service implementation, and support for residential, business, and enterprise customers. In his prior role he managed Network Engineering, Outside Plant Engineering, Corporate IT, Technical Support, and Project Management departments for Smithville.

Over the past five years Brodin launched or oversaw a number of major initiatives at Smithville, including the current fiber overbuild in Jasper, the deployment of a 17-node DWDM ring for residential and business services throughout southern Indiana, a cost-saving initiative that reduced bandwidth costs by 29% and increased network capacity by 160%, and led a successful upgrade that completely replaced the Internet Protocol Television (IPTV) infrastructure at Smithville.

Prior to joining Smithville, Brodin held a variety of management positions, including serving as the systems engineering manager for the City of Bloomington (Indiana). He served on the adjunct faculty of Ivy Tech Community College from 1997 to 2011.

In addition to a variety of CISCO professional certifications, Brodin holds a Master of Science degree in computer science from Bowling Green State University (Bowling Green, Ohio), as well as bachelors of science degrees in computer science and chemistry from the same university.



### **Steve Gilliland, President and CEO, the Harrison County Community Foundation**

Steve graduated from English (Indiana) High School in 1973. He served 20 years in the US Navy Submarine Service; the latter twelve years as an Acoustic Intelligence Specialist. He earned his submarine warfare badge in 1975, was selected for the Navy Enlisted Scientific and Education Program in 1976, and attended the Senior Enlisted Academy in 1988. During his Navy career, Steve was awarded three Navy Commendation Medals, five Navy Achievement Medals, five Navy Good Conduct Medals, six Navy Expeditionary Medals and two National Defense Medals.

Soon after retiring from the military and returning home to Crawford County, Indiana in 1993, Steve was hired to create and manage a youth center and alternative school. He helped secure a \$500,000 Community Focus Fund grant resulting in the Crawford County Youth Service Bureau (YSB) relocating into a spacious facility in Marengo, Indiana. In 1998, his last year at the YSB, Steve was on the steering committee and the founding Board of Directors of the Community Foundation of Crawford County.

Steve was hired as the first employee of the Harrison County Community Foundation (HCCF) in March 1999. HCCF was created in 1996 by an initial gift of \$5,000,000 from Caesar's Indiana. The casino has provided more than \$180,000,000 to the Foundation over the years. Other public donations exceeding \$12,500,000 have been added to create over 250 endowed funds. HCCF has awarded \$90,000,000 in grants and scholarships and holds current net assets of 195,000,000.

Steve completed a Bachelor's of Science in Organizational Management from Oakland City University in 1996. He has been a Certified Fundraising Executive (CFRE) since 2009. He completed the US Chamber of Commerce Institute of Organizational Management in 2004, The Fundraising School Certificate in Fund Raising Management in 2007, The Center on Philanthropy Certificate in Nonprofit Executive Leadership in 2011, and the Board Source Certificate of Nonprofit Board Consulting in 2017. He completed Leadership Harrison County in 2000, Leadership Southern Indiana Engage Program in 2014, and Ship Shape nonprofit board governance training in 2015.

Steve was on the board of directors of the Indiana Youth Services Association from 1999 – 2001; serving as president during his last year. He has been on the board of the Indiana Philanthropy Alliance and is currently on the board of Align Southern Indiana.



**James Tanneberger, President and CEO, South Central Indiana REMC.**

James is the President and CEO of South Central Indiana REMC. James comes to SCI from College Station, Texas, where he was Division Manager for Transmission, Substation, and Engineering at Bryan Texas Utilities.

He has a heart for public utilities and is a third-generation public power worker. James is a licensed professional engineer, with a diverse set of experience having worked at small, mid-sized, and large public and investor-owned power providers. He holds bachelor's degree in Electrical Engineering from Texas A&M University and an MBA from University of Houston.

James enjoys building strong personal and professional relationships and firmly believes in the strength of the cooperative spirit. Most recently, James has been leverage past ISP experience to lead SCI REMC into the world of high-speed internet service. SCI REMC is currently building fiber to all of its 29,000 electric members in the seven county area just south of Indianapolis.

## Panel 4 – Funding Opportunities



**Michael Laros, Board Member, Brown County Community Foundation.**

Mike and his family moved to Brown County in 1995 and he soon realized the difficulties of running a business amidst the bucolic trees and total lack of modern communications infrastructure existing in rural Indiana. He became the chair of the Brown County Broadband Task Force after retiring from a thirty-five-year career in utility industry management consulting.

Mike's consulting focus was in the areas of major-project cost effectiveness, utility restructuring, and organizational development. He directed industry restructuring-related assignments for utility and regulatory clients across the U.S, as well as in England, Canada, and South Africa. He has testified regarding the reasonableness of utility management practices in a variety of civil litigation and regulatory proceedings before the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), and the California, Illinois, New Jersey, Ohio and Texas state public utility commissions. In 1990 he co-founded the Barrington-Wellesley Group, a national utility consulting practice which was acquired by Huron Consulting Group (Chicago) in 2007 and subsequently by PA Consulting (London) in 2010. Previously he was Vice President/Director for Theodore Barry & Associates (Los Angeles) with lead roles in the litigation support and utility industry competitive restructuring consulting practices.

Mike received his B.S. in Industrial Distribution at Clarkson College, Potsdam, NY and an M.B.A. in Finance and Accounting from the University of California, Berkeley.



**Todd May, Deputy Commissioner, Indiana Department of Transportation.**

Todd has served as the Deputy Commissioner of Greenfield for the past two years. He is responsible for the daily activities within the East Central region of Indiana. Activities ranging from all operations of maintenance, construction and asset management. He is also serving in an advisory role to INDOT's Commissioner and Chief of Staff on the rural broadband program.

Prior to becoming Deputy Commissioner, Todd served as the Statewide Director of Utilities and Railroad for INDOT. Prior to INDOT, he spent 5 years working in the telecommunications industry for Smithville

Communications overseeing rural and community build outs as well as 3P partnerships with municipalities and utility companies.



**Scott Woods, BroadbandUSA Technical Assistance Manager, National Telecommunications & Information Administration.**

As a Senior Communications Program Specialist with the National Telecommunications and Information Administration's (NTIA) BroadbandUSA Initiative, Mr. Woods manages the BroadbandUSA Technical Assistance Program. He serves as a principal liaison between the BroadbandUSA program office and key strategic partners and external stakeholder groups; including representatives from state and local governments, telecommunications companies, for-profit and non-profit corporations and colleges/universities.

Prior to his BroadbandUSA management responsibilities, Mr. Woods managed the BTOP Grant Program and was responsible for the administrative "sunset" of all BTOP activities and interagency coordination with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Grants Management Division. Mr. Woods has also managed numerous grant recipients and broadband network projects within the BTOP Comprehensive Community Infrastructure (CCI) portfolio, including projects in California, Arizona, Virginia, Georgia, Florida, Louisiana, Texas, West Virginia, Arkansas, Hawaii, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. His portfolio of projects included complex, high-profile, and high-risk broadband infrastructure deployment and construction projects with a total value over \$750 million.



**Eric Ogle, CDBG Program Director, Office of Community and Rural Affairs.**

Eric has served the state of Indiana for more than nine years overseeing and leading the state's federal grants programs across two different agencies.