

Pittsburgh Branch Board of Directors

February 2022



Vera Krekanova | Chair, Pittsburgh Branch

Chief Strategy and Research Officer, Allegheny Conference on Community Development | Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Appointed by the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System | Sector Representation: Consumer/Community

The Allegheny Conference on Community Development is a nonprofit, private-sector leadership organization dedicated to economic development and quality-of-life issues for a 10-county region in southwestern Pennsylvania. Ms. Krekanova is responsible for coordinating all quantitative and qualitative research, championing the use of data and information across the organization, and framing the messaging around the conditions of the region's economy. She is a member of the Pittsburgh Regional Health Initiative and Friends of Via.

Earl Buford

President, CAEL | Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Appointed by the Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland Board of Directors | Sector Representation: Nonprofit/Business Group



CAEL helps organizations succeed by providing expertise, resources, and solutions that effectively support adult learners as they navigate on- and off-ramps between education and employment. Mr. Buford is a member of numerous boards and committees, including those at the African American Strategic Partnership, the Allegheny Conference on Community Development, Bridgeway Behavioral Health, and Healthcare Council of Western Pennsylvania.

Christina A. Cassotis

Chief Executive Officer, Allegheny County Airport Authority | Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Appointed by the Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland Board of Directors | Sector Representation: Transportation



The Allegheny County Airport Authority is a municipal authority in Allegheny County, Pennsylvania, that oversees and maintains the Pittsburgh International Airport and Allegheny County Airport. Ms. Cassotis is a board member of S&T Bancorp, US Travel Association, and a member of International Aviation Womens Association.

Sanjay Chopra

Chief Executive Officer, Cognistx | Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Appointed by the Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland Board of Directors | Sector Representation: Information Technology



Cognistx is a Pittsburgh-based applied artificial intelligence (AI) company that builds multistrategy AI systems for businesses across the United States. Cognistx creates AI-powered computer systems that can sense, learn, and act. Mr. Chopra serves on the boards of Chatham University and the Pittsburgh Business Group on Health. He is also an adjunct professor of ecommerce at Carnegie Mellon University.

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Kathy Wilson Humphrey

President, Carlow University | Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Appointed by the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System | Sector Representation: Education

Carlow University is a private coeducational Catholic university grounded in the liberal arts and known for excellence in health sciences and for offering strong professional programs. Dr. Humphrey is a member of the boards of directors of the Urban League of Greater Pittsburgh, Leadership Pittsburgh Inc., Riverlife, Gwen's Girls, and Blood Science Foundation. She also serves on the executive committee of the International Women's Forum of Pittsburgh and is chair of the Forbes Funds. Previously, she was a member of the Advisory Council for the United States Merchant Marine Academy.



Kathryn Klaber

Managing Partner, The Klaber Group | Beaver Falls, Pennsylvania

Appointed by the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System | Sector Representation: Energy, Mining, and Extraction

The Klaber Group provides strategic services to businesses and other institutions as they capitalize on shale development in the United States and abroad and manage the impacts of public-sector actions across many industries. Ms. Klaber launched and led the Marcellus Shale Coalition as its first chief executive officer in 2009. She is the vice chair of the governance committee for Junior Achievement of Western Pennsylvania and is a member of the Beaver County Chamber of Commerce. She has served as executive vice president for competitiveness at the Allegheny Conference on Community Development and as managing director of the Pennsylvania Economy League.



Nishan J. Vartanian

Chair, President, and Chief Executive Officer, MSA Safety Incorporated | Cranberry Township, Pennsylvania

Appointed by the Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland Board of Directors | Sector Representation: Manufacturing

MSA Safety Incorporated is a global leader in the development, manufacture, and supply of safety products that protect people and facility infrastructures. Mr. Vartanian serves on the board of trustees for the Manufacturers Alliance for Productivity and Innovation (MAPI), the International Associates of Fire Fighters (IAFF) Foundation, and the Allegheny Conference on Community Development (ACCD).